

THE GATEWAY

volume XCVI number 29 • the official student newspaper at the university of alberta • www.gateway.ualberta.ca • thursday, 26 january, 2006



LET THE FLAME DIE OUT? University of Alberta students may soon vote on banning tobacco products from campus.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: LEANNE BROWN

Student seeks campus tobacco ban

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI
News Staff

Students across campus might soon be able to exit a building without having to plunge into a cloud of smoke or trample on a carpet of cigarette butts if third-year Physical Education student Shereen Kangarloo gets her wish.

Kangarloo, who has been involved in tobacco-reduction groups for four years, is circulating a petition in the hopes of putting the question of a campus-wide tobacco ban on the ballot during the Students' Union elections in March.

With the petition only 400 short

of the 1600 signatures required, students will likely be presented with a plebiscite banning the use and sale of tobacco products on University property, to be effective 1 July, 2006. An exception would allow for smoking around residences until 1 July, 2008, at which point the same conditions would come into effect. This would bring the University of Alberta in line with Dalhousie University in Halifax, which has been leading this type of initiative in Canada. If implemented, it would make the U of A's smoking ban more stringent than the City of Edmonton's.

"Ever since I became involved and

began to know about tobacco and its effects, I realized that tobacco should be off campus, and that's kind of my goal," said Kangarloo. "I'm pretty hopeful that the situation on campus will change through this, but I don't know if it will be the drastic, full-on change as proposed in the question."

However, achieving any change could be difficult because of the way the SU electoral system is set up. Plebiscites are not legally binding on the SU or the University administration and serve only as a sign of student opinion on issues.

PLEASE SEE TOBACCO • PAGE 5

University hikes tuition—sort of

TRISTAN FOLLINSBEE
News Writer

In a meeting that was both passionate and tense, the University of Alberta's Board of Governors (BoG) met on Friday and voted to increase tuition by 6.4 per cent, or \$307 for a full-time student.

Dr Carl Amrhein, the University's Provost and Vice-President (Academic), argued in his presentation to the board that the tuition increase was necessary to defray extra costs associated with increased utility prices and because of a lack of funding from the provincial government.

"In the absence of any information from the provincial government, I am honour-bound to capture all the revenue I can to stem the slide in the quality of the undergraduate experience for every student," said Amrhein.

Despite the increase on paper, students will not be on the hook for next year's tuition hike. Advanced Education Minister Dave Hancock said the provincial government is honouring a promise by Premier Ralph Klein that students will not pay any added costs in 2006/07.

"The tuition holiday that was put in place in 2005 will be extended to the fall of 2006. In the meantime, we're working on a tuition policy to deal

with affordability and the costs to students in school," said Hancock.

The only dissenting votes on Friday came from undergraduate BoG representative Adam Cook, Students' Union President Graham Lettner, and Graduate Students Association President Toks Bakinson.

"The tuition holiday that was put in place in 2005 will be extended to the fall of 2006. In the meantime, we're working on a tuition policy to deal with affordability and the costs to students in school."

DAVE HANCOCK, ALBERTA
MINISTER OF ADVANCED EDUCATION

Responding to presentations against the tuition increase from the BoG's student representatives, Amrhein suggested that the SU's advocacy for tuition relief amounted to a failure to represent the SU's entire constituency.

PLEASE SEE TUITION • PAGE 2

Council rejects referendum on exclusive beverage deals

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI
News Staff

After languishing on Students' Council's agenda for months, an attempt to create a referendum question on whether the Students' Union should be prohibited from entering into another single-source cold beverage agreement was shot down Tuesday night by a vote of 13-9.

The proposal would have seen students voting to bar the SU from entering into another agreement like the current contract with Coca-Cola on campus. Though the contract is set to expire in 2007, it could be extended until 2009 if the University doesn't meet the confidential sales target outlined in the agreement.

Science Councilor Steve Kirkham brought the question to Council and based it on a similar one that was passed by McMaster University students in Hamilton this fall. The complaint was prompted by the fact that in addition to having a monopoly on campus, only one student—the SU Vice-President

(Operations and Finance)—is allowed to see the contract. But, Kirkham explained, a more striking reason is the alleged human right abuses of the Coca-Cola Company, exemplified in recent cases in Columbia.

"In Columbia there have been nine alleged murders that many [there] have stated [were] done by Coke, because there's people that are trying to get unions together, labour officials, things like this," said Kirkham. "So a number of postsecondary institutions across North America—and even the world—have condemned Coke for this. Some universities have even taken the first step to say, 'Sorry Coke, you're not allowed on our property until you go through an independent investigation to check these violations.'"

In fact, New York University instituted a ban on all Coca-Cola products, effective 8 December, 2005, when the corporation didn't address the University's request for them to allow an independent investigation into the alleged abuses in Columbia.

PLEASE SEE COKE • PAGE 6

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"Conquered," if you will

The Tories won, but Jake Troughton suggests they'll neither consume nor enslave the captive earth men.

OPINION, PAGE 9



Colour of their carpet

Local rockers Red Shag Carpet are set to release their new CD, Lift and Drop, at the Powerplant on Saturday.

A&E, PAGE 24

THE GATEWAY

thursday, 26 January 2006
volume XXVI number 28

Published on 21 November, 1910
Circulation 11 000
ISSN 0849-356X

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THE GATEWAY is published by the Gateway Student Journalism Society (GSJS), a student-run, apolitical, not-for-profit organization, operated in accordance with the Societies Act of Alberta.

THE GATEWAY is proud to be a founding member of the Canadian Journalism Press.

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The Gateway is created using a Macintosh computer, Linux Powerbook 1500 tablet scanner, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of Times, Baskerville, and Helvetica. The Masthead is the Gateway's sister page. The Gateway's games of choice are Mario Kart DS and Super Mario Bros 2.

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SU not representing students who can pay: Amrhein

Students' Union, University still awaiting information on new provincial tuition policy due this spring

TUITION • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I'm going to push the leadership of the students to confront the reality that they represent all students, even the very wealthy ones for whom tuition, quite frankly, is not an issue. We showed you the tuition graphs; we are not out of line internationally with our peer institutions," said Amrhein. Responding to that statement on Monday, Lettner said that while the SU represents all students, the budget meeting was a natural time to discuss the significant proportion of students who graduate with extensive debt.

"Obviously the SU advocates on behalf of all students. I'd love to have a conversation on how to improve the academic experience, but the consideration were talking about at the board meeting is that we can't do those things on the backs of higher tuition fees," Lettner said.

This is the 25th consecutive year that the University has raised tuition, though due to a provincial rebate this year, students paid the same costs as in 2004/05.

"We've seen year after year that increased tuition barely makes up the decrease in provincial funding that the University [gets]. So it's a moot point; it's not about being able to do this with higher tuition, it's about needing provincial funding to make all these

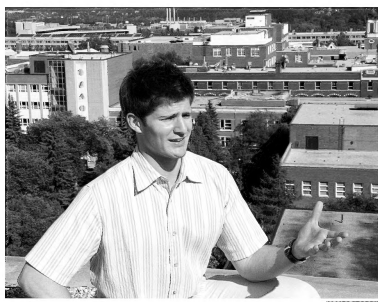
things a reality," said Lettner.

While students will not face increased tuition next year, Lettner is concerned that without a long-term plan from the provincial government, students could be stuck with a "triple bump" of increased tuition fees next year if funding runs dry and the two-year freeze is eliminated. That increase could be as much as 20 per cent, or close to \$1000 for a full-time student.

"I'm going to push the leadership of the students to confront the reality that they represent all students, even the very wealthy ones for whom tuition, quite frankly, is not an issue."

DR CARL AMRHEIN, PROVOST AND VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)

The SU is now lobbying the province with their "Roll it Back, Ralph" campaign, asking the Province to reduce tuition by 50 per cent. Premier Klein has promised Albertans that a



ON THE OTHER HAND Students' Union President Graham Lettner talks tuition.

new tuition policy will be in place for the spring.

The U of A's administration, however, appears not to have any information on what that final tuition policy may be. All parties in the BoG meeting expressed frustration at the lack of a clear tuition policy from the province.

Hancock said that apparent communication gap was due to conflicting timeframes between the U of A and

the provincial government's budget processes.

"There is still some uncertainty between the institutions and the government; I can't 100 per cent commit to them that I've got money to do everything they want, because I've still got to go through my budget process, in the same way that they've still got to go through their budget processes. I think that's where part of the issue lies," said Hancock.

STREETERS

On Monday, 23 January, Stephen Harper was elected as Canada's 22nd Prime Minister with a minority Conservative government that captured 124 seats.

What do you think of our new Prime Minister?



Ian Burnett
Phys Ed II



Chris Wilson
Phys Ed
Education II



Jolea McMillan
Education II



Shauna Ritchie
Phys Ed II

What a douche! He's pretty scary-looking. What did my brother say? "A baby-eating robot..." I don't want to see that guy on TV, man; he scares the shit out of me.

He looks like a robot and his views are just ridiculous—well, some of them anyway. He's got that whole abortion law thing and I personally don't agree with it... It just seems like there's this stereotype that Conservatives are for the rich. I don't know, he just seems a little bogus—I don't really like him... Bottom line: he's not human.

I don't really like him. I think he's sort of sneaky. I just don't think he really does what people want. I just don't think that people can trust him. I find that his laws and everything he's going for just seems to be against what we already have.

I think he's going to be an excellent Prime Minister. He's really got his head straight and it's definitely been time for a change for quite a few years now, so I think it'll be super-awesome.

Compiled and photographed by Chloé Fedio and Ashley Scarlett

full steam ahead
every weekend

U of A's DrugBank gives doctors an information high

Online database catalogues nearly all known drugs, where they go in body

AMANDA ASH
News Staff

While encyclopedias are left gathering dust on bookshelves, U of A researchers have taken advantage of the Internet's accessibility by developing an online DrugBank, an extensive catalogue of information covering about 95 per cent of all known drugs.

Dr David Wishart, a University researcher and professor in Computing Science and Biological Sciences, in conjunction with seven other PhD level scientists, biotechnicians and computer scientists, has erected a website that lists both drugs and their corresponding destinations in the human body.

"What distinguishes the DrugBank from other lists of drugs is it includes both drugs and drug targets, or more specifically, what drugs themselves work on," Wishart explained. "Most doctors, scientists and pharmacists don't know those specific targets, and so this is something new, something different."

The project itself took four years to complete, but it would have taken longer without the help of computers to assist and facilitate in the compilation. The original effort meant manually typing everything in, but with the introduction of tools and software in bioinformatics, the analysis of biological information with computers and statistical techniques, they were able to reach a quicker end result.

"It was essentially like trying to write about a 25 000-page encyclopedia," Wishart said. "Each of the entries

requires a little biography about the drug on how it works, what it targets, and trying to do just a just a team of seven would have taken anywhere from 70 to 90 years."

In addition to being highly accessible to researchers, healthcare professionals and science students, the DrugBank is also available to the general public. But instead of functioning as a substitute for professional medical advice, Wishart explained that it should serve solely as an information resource.

"No doctor or pharmacist has all the drugs memorized, so what the DrugBank allows you to do is have a look and see if there are any other medications you can get."

DR DAVID WISHART

"The DrugBank gives you an option to search for 'No doctor or pharmacist has all the drugs memorized, so what the DrugBank allows you to do is have a look and see if there are any other medications you can get. If you're allergic to one drug, you can check what else is out there. In that respect, it also helps you to talk to your doctor or pharmacist in a more informed manner."

Wishart went on to explain that the project hopes to add pricing information to the database in the future.

"In Canada, generally prices aren't much of a burden, but in the United States and the rest of the world, they can be. Often, it's the drug of the day that's prescribed when there are much cheaper, generic drugs that work just as well."

Although the DrugBank appears ready to take on the world, another part of the challenge involves getting the word out.

Lori Queregesser, project manager for the DrugBank and employee of Genome Alberta, provided management support for researchers over the past four years while ensuring everything moved along smoothly. Genome Alberta, with help from Genome Canada, funded the project and now their job is to make the DrugBank known as a rich source of information.

"We're trying to bridge the gap between the research and the broader community," Queregesser explained. "With the DrugBank, we're looking towards getting pharmacy associations and professionals interested in the data, as well as other researchers."

Unlike other drug lists that may be changing for their use, Queregesser said the DrugBank is available without financial strings and will remain that way in the future, ultimately to relay supportive information and technology from researchers to the general public.

The initiative began as part of the Human Metabolome Project, a \$7.5 million Genome Canada project begun in January 2005.

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Well Highballs \$3.00 | Big Rock Pints \$3.75
- 3 Wednesday
Well Highballs \$3.00
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- 4 Thursday
Well Highballs \$3.00
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- 5 Friday
Well Highballs \$3.00 | Big Rock Pints \$3.75

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Powerplant Trivia

During the month of December, the best selling food item at the Plant was the Bourbon Burger. The best selling draught beer was Big Rock's Grasshopper and the most popular liquor choice for highballs was Rye. Yep, we're still in Alberta.

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WWW.SU-VENUES.CA

Campus Bars: a service for students, staff, alumni and guests



CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Chloe Fedio

OFF THE WAGON

On Tuesday, 17 January, an intoxicated male was located at the south end of HUB mall. After a brief investigation, it was determined that the drunkard had an extensive criminal record and his release conditions included abstinence from alcohol. He was arrested and released into the custody of the Edmonton Police Service.

SIR PUFFS ALOT

On Wednesday, 18 January, a patrolling Campus Security member witnessed two males smoking weed in a stairwell on the north side of St. Joseph's College. A small amount of marijuana and drug paraphernalia were recovered, and the stoners were escorted off campus. Neither of the potheads had any University affiliation.

DEMOLISHING CRAMPAGE

Sometime between Thursday, 19 January and Friday, 20 January, unknown vandals caused extensive damage to University property in the V-Wing. Biological Sciences, Chemistry and Physics buildings. Angry smashing was inflicted upon a clock, a glass door, a display window, a washroom sink and its liquid soap dispensers. Garbage cans and chairs were also tipped over, leaving a damage estimated at more than \$2000. In the past three months, about ten similar incidents have occurred. Anyone with information is asked to contact Campus Security at 492-5252 or CrimeStoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

SLOBBERING STUDENT

On Saturday, 21 January, a patrolling 50 member located a man passed out under some tables at the south end of HUB Mall. He was identified as a current University student who had come to the attention of Campus Security in the past for similar incidents. The lush was issued a ticket for public intoxication and escorted to his residence.

FAILED ATTEMPT

Sometime between 2pm on Saturday, 21 January and the following Sunday, 22 January, unknown persons attempted to force entry into an office on the twelfth floor of the Clinical Sciences Building. Luckily, their efforts proved to be in vain and the office remained secure.

MASS RUMMAGER

About 9:45am on Sunday, 22 January, a suspicious male was reported to be rummaging through the coat check at St. Joseph's College during the morning mass. He was later seen in the area of Campus Towers, and is described as six feet tall and in his mid-20s with olive skin, brown hair, glasses, a baseball cap and a jacket. He has been seen in the College on previous occasions.

DEGENERATE DRIVES DRUNK

On the evening of Sunday, 22 January, a vehicle was stopped at 114 Street and 87 Ave for driving without its headlights on. It was determined that the driver, who was a University student, was under the influence of alcohol. He was arrested and turned over to EPS.

POTTY MOUTH

On Sunday, 22 January, Campus Security observed two males yelling profanities at pedestrians in the bus loop. One of the



SUPPLIED

belligerent males had no University affiliation and left the area without incident. The other, who was a University student, was arrested and issued a provincial for public intoxication. He was later released to the care of a sober friend.

INSANE IN THE MEMBRANE

On Monday, 23 January, patrolling 50 members noticed a shady man lurking on 112 Street and 87 Ave. It was determined that he had been kicked off campus in the past and had an extensive criminal record for drug- and property-related offenses. The creeper, who was highly intoxicated, had suffered head trauma as the result of a fight that occurred earlier on in the night and was transported to the hospital for assessment. Later in the night, he was located on campus and issued a ticket for public intoxication, then kicked off University property, hopefully for good.

Philosopher's Café set to ask: do we have the right to death?

Latest in series of forums will examine euthanasia and assisted suicide

TRISTAN FOLINSBEE
News Staff

Don Carmichael, Associate Professor with the U of A's Department of Political Science, will try to give new life to the assisted suicide debate this Saturday at the Stanley A Milner Library downtown.

In a Philosopher's Café event entitled "Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide: Does the Right to Life Include the Right to End Your Life?" Carmichael will act as a facilitator in a discussion about the ethical, moral and political problems raised by the issue of euthanasia.

"The basic question for me is: why isn't it allowed?" said Carmichael. "Why can't people who are mature and aren't obviously out of their minds or depressed, why can't they make the decision to end their lives, and have the support of other people in doing so?"

The debate over assisted suicide is most often viewed in Canada through the prism of two controversial cases—Sue Rodriguez's failed 1993 fight to the Supreme Court for the right to obtain medical assistance to end her life, and Robert Latimer's conviction for killing his daughter Tracy, who suffered from severe cerebral palsy, in 1993.

These two cases are vital in understanding the questions Carmichael plans to raise on Saturday, though for different reasons.

"I think the Latimer case did a whole lot to set the issue back. There's no way you could construe that as a

case of assisted suicide. There was no consent given; there was no real way of determining what consent there might be," said Carmichael.

"I'm not trying to change the opinions of people who have one view or another, but I think this is an issue that really troubles a lot of people, and quite properly, because it's an issue that involves a set of conflicting perspectives where most people respect all of them."

DON CARMICHAEL,
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR,
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

In contrast, Sue Rodriguez's case was more complex. Critically ill with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis—more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease—she wished to live as long as she comfortably could, but recognized that the nature of her disease could leave her unable to independently take her own life once that life became, for her, unlivable. After the Supreme Court rejected her petition for the second time, she obtained medical

assistance in ending her life from an unidentified physician. She died on 12 February, 1994.

The complexity of the Rodriguez case represents, for Carmichael, the crux of the euthanasia debate.

"I'm not trying to change the opinions of people who have one view or another, but I think this is an issue that really troubles a lot of people, and quite properly, because it's an issue that involves a set of conflicting perspectives where most people respect all of them," said Carmichael.

An argument commonly presented by opponents of euthanasia is that allowing critically ill people to obtain medical assistance in ending their lives constitutes a "slippery slope"—eliminating the safeguards protecting critically ill patients would leave them vulnerable to predatory relatives or doctors who may have ulterior motives. Carmichael, however, sees this argument as too simplistic to be intellectually valid.

"I have never seen an interesting issue that didn't involve a slippery slope," said Carmichael. "There are no interesting issues that don't call for some kind of careful weighing and balancing and deliberation of the pros and cons. Somebody can always say that if you take all that careful deliberation away, then you're going to get a different result."

This edition of the Philosopher's Café will be held in the basement of the Stanley A Milner Library at 2pm Saturday.

Hillel draws students to HUB bone marrow drive

SCOTT LIDWALL
News Staff

U of A students dug deep within themselves this week, looking not into their hearts, but rather to their bones, to help those in need.

The Hillel Jewish Students' Association, collaborating with the Florida-based organization Gift of Life, held a bone marrow registration drive in HUB on Monday and Tuesday, aiming to add new names to the international Unrelated Bone Marrow Donor Registry (UBMDR). While the drive was specifically aimed at those of Jewish heritage, a group that is underrepresented on the registry in Canada, anyone was welcome to come in and get their names placed on the donor list.

"A big idea in Judaism is called *tikkun olam*, which means 'repairing the world.' So, there is a big push for social action work and work on social action projects," explained Deborah Silver, coordinator of the drive. "We don't do enough of them, I think, so we thought this would be fun."

While giving blood and plasma is what readily comes to mind when most people think of drives, there is a worldwide need for the donation of bone marrow, the tissue located in the centre of the bone. It produces, among other things, the red and white blood cells for the body.

Likewise, a bone-marrow cancer, is one of the better-known conditions that can be treated with a marrow transplant. Silver pointed out that this finding a donor for people suffering of bone marrow diseases can be

difficult.

"Usually, it's the family most people can find the match from. But, 70 per cent can't find it in their immediate family, so they need to turn to registries," Silver said.

Dr Robert Turner, professor of Medicine and Oncology, echoed the need for more donors on the registry, especially those from the unrepresented groups.

"While there are a large number of people on the registry, there are some ethnic groups that are underrepresented in Canada," Turner said, pointing to Aboriginal, South-East Asian, African and Jewish populations. "That can make it difficult to find a match."

The approximately 100 students that registered during the drive only needed to provide a swab from the inside of the cheek and will be contacted for further testing. Turner explained that bone marrow is not extracted until a positive match is found, adding that, "donation is in no way dangerous to the donor."

Silver hopes that the drive will encourage more people to sign on to the registry and help those in need of bone marrow transplants.

"The more people you can get put into this registry, the better chances you have of finding a match for their donations, and so a better chance of survival if they can get that transplant."

While the drive might be over, anyone interested in registering for the UBMDR can do so at any time by contacting Canadian Blood Services, and Turner assured that testing is confidential and free.



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www.su.ualberta.ca

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Tobacco would be non-binding, but result may be tough to ignore

2004 survey indicated that only 3.9 per cent of students smoked regularly

(TOBACCO • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

But according to Science Coordinator Steve Kirkham—who has previously tried and failed to have the SU cease selling tobacco products—the SU and University would be foolish to ignore the results if students voted overwhelmingly in favour of the ban, particularly since a wellness report produced by the University's Senate in July 2003 recommended a campus-wide tobacco ban.

"I certainly hope [the University] will pursue this in good faith," Kirkham said. "It could get the ball rolling a little faster, and if it's something that students support, they could actually have it implemented."

"That's exactly why there are dates here, to try and convince the University to do something."

A University administration official declined to comment on how the University would react if students voted in favour of a ban. However, SU Vice-President (Operations and

Finance) Jason Tobias said it was extremely likely that Students' Council would use the results to make a final decision about SU tobacco sales.

"It's not that [the SU and University] don't care; it's that they just don't seem to want to change anything if students aren't saying anything about it."

SHEREEN KANGARLOO

"Eventually we're going to have to come to a consensus on if we should be selling tobacco products and using that revenue to fund student services, or whether it's just unacceptable for us to be doing that," he said.

"Council has yet to come to a decision on that, and once they have a plebiscite result to illustrate where the wind's blowing from the electorate, then I think that's going to send a pretty strong signal either way."

Although a vote would be non-binding, Kangaroo is optimistic a majority of students will support a ban, given that only 3.9 per cent of them smoke regularly, according to the 2004 SU Student Survey. She also believes that, at the very least, her petition and plebiscite drive will create some debate about the issue on campus.

"It's not that [the SU and University] don't care; it's that they just don't seem to want to change anything if students aren't saying anything about it," said Kangaroo. "So if I can get a good number of people signing the petition and then voting for [a tobacco ban], then they may do something about it."

"I just want the word out and people talking about it."

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Compiled by Natalie Climenhaga and Jake Troughton

ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL WEEK SET TO KICK OFF

With the goal of cultivating awareness in the University community on global issues, the U of A's Global Education Program has coordinated the 21st annual International Week, running from 30 January to 3 February.

Attention will be drawn to this year's theme, "More Than Words: Realizing Human Rights," throughout the week by numerous events around campus.

"There are so many articles and declarations [on human rights] we have to do more than just talk about it," International Week programmer Solene Chang emphasized. "We're going to be out there spreading the word."

The week will be officially kicked off in high style with a keynote address from Stephen Lewis, the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, who will be speaking at the Myer Horowitz Theatre at 12pm on Monday, 30 January.

But for students who aren't interested in sitting in on lectures, some of the many performances—ranging from Alaskan dancers, Capoeira, Bollywood and hip-hop—featured during I-Week may be of interest.

"The Bollywood dancers, for me, [are] going to be the big highlight. I am going to drag myself in for that," I-Week volunteer coordinator Elijah van der Giessen said. "There's nothing cooler than Bollywood extravaganzas; its explosions and dancing girls—enough said."

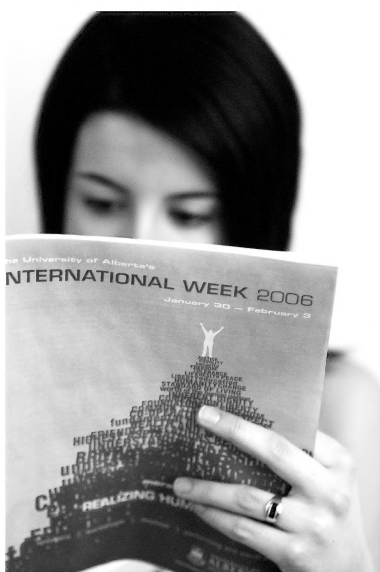
And while international human rights issues faced in developing nations have a high priority, Chang hopes I-Week can also raise awareness about problems faced in our local communities.

"There's stuff [dealing with human rights] that does affect us on a day-to-day basis, and it's important for us to know about it," Chang noted.

Program guides are currently available around campus allowing individuals to discover what might interest them ahead of time.

SU WEB BOARD FINALLY BACK UP

Nine months after it was first taken down by last year's Executive, and nearly as long after this year's Executive pledged to bring it back, the Students'



READY TO GO A student reads a guide to the upcoming International Week.

Union's online discussion forum is back online.

The web board was quietly restored earlier this week, but though it generally follows the style of its predecessor—old posts to the board are even still there, and existing accounts have carried over—there have been some changes. Anonymous posting is no longer allowed, and all registered users must have either a ualberta.ca or ualberta.net e-mail address. Posters must also agree to the new terms of use, which prohibit libelous content, copyrighted material and other posts, as well as the possession of more than one account.

"In general the SU does not intend to take an active role in policing content—people are free to voice their concerns and dissent," Web board administrator Marc Dumouchel wrote in the first post on the revived board. "What is changing is that the idea of purely anonymous

posting and of multiple IDs is history. The Executive and the lawyers feel that everyone should be accountable for what they say."

AUGUSTANA GETS BREAK ON TAX HIKE

The U of A's Augustana Faculty in Camrose will find itself paying property tax on student residences this year, but Camrose's City Council has granted the faculty a reprieve until April.

Camrose had decided earlier to start taxing the dorms starting 1 January, but Augustana officials complained that this was unfair because the University hadn't budgeted for the taxes for this fiscal year, which ends 31 March.

Last week, the City agreed to cover the tax hike until that time to account for the school's budget. However, Augustana will pay the full property tax for April–December of this year and for the length of subsequent years.

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NOMINATIONS CLOSE
January 31st, 2005



SU can't oppose deal it agreed to: Tobias

AUCTION - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

While many of the councilors found Kirkham's arguments persuasive, clauses in the proposed question would have required the SU to condemn the current contract with Coca-Cola and work to lobby the University to ensure they don't enter into another similar agreement. This was met with great opposition and VP (Operations and Finance) Jason Tobias said it wasn't wise, or even possible, for the SU to take that stance given the nature of the current contract.

"I think it's problematic to officially oppose an agreement that we've entered into and that we have no means to exit from," said Tobias, adding that a referendum vote in favour of banning single-source

beverage agreements would prevent the SU from entering into a contract that may be more favourable and, ultimately, profitable.

"I think it's problematic to officially oppose an agreement that we've entered into and that we have no means to exit from."

JASON TOBIAS, SU VICE-PRESIDENT (OPERATIONS AND FINANCE)

However, Tobias said that since

the deal has been causing a political headache, the SU is not likely to enter into another agreement with Coca-Cola unless circumstances change, especially since a new agreement would have to be put to students in a referendum.

"I think that the negative press from it alone has created a situation where even if we were in a position to negotiate another one, which we're not, I'm not sure that a referendum to enter into another similar contract would be successful," said Tobias.

Still, Kirkham was disappointed about the failed referendum proposal and even tried without success to have the vote postponed until the next meeting in the hopes of having more councilors in attendance.

COUNCIL FORUM

Compiled by Ross Prusakowski

Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6pm. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 31 January.

Five days after the University's Board of Governors met in the same room to increase student tuition 6.4 per cent, Students' Council assembled to try something novel—reducing the size of their agenda. Thanks to deadlines imposed upon Council by their own bylaws and the University's fee collection system, a large part of the agenda concerned wrapping up debates on fee changes before time ran out.

HUMBLE PRESIDENT

First, though, Council entertained a few presentations, one of which was from Students' Union President Graham Lettner, who briefed the group about the SU's approach to the tuition debate this year. He slowly walked Council through the various University committees the tuition increase went through, and admitted there were a few hiccups at various stages of the process. Lettner also admitted that he could have done a better job on the tuition file and that he didn't help the SU gain enough media

attention—in addition to having some communication problems with Vice-President (External) Sam Power on the direction the tuition debate. He conceded that if there should be any finger pointing on the issue, it should be at him.

UNIVERSITY TO SEEK HEALTH FEE HIKE

Afterwards, Dr Gordon McIntyre gave a presentation on the University's proposal to raise the Health Services fee. He argued that the current income doesn't sustain the demand for services because of the costs associated with recruiting and retaining doctors. Furthermore, McIntyre said the subsidies students receive from the pharmacy located in the U of A Bookstore—including subsidized birth control pills—have increased financial pressures substantially. Since Council is prohibited from considering a motion during the same meeting that they receive a presentation, the proposal will be debated when they meet next week.

BSA BUUCKS

Continuing with the theme of the evening, a proposal from the Business Students' Association to create a \$750 fee per student per semester was put forward for Council's approval. In response to questions from councilors, BSA President Clark Barr noted that the fee they are proposing is less than what most other business schools in Canada charge, and that the money collected would be used in large part to fund stu-

dent travel to conferences.

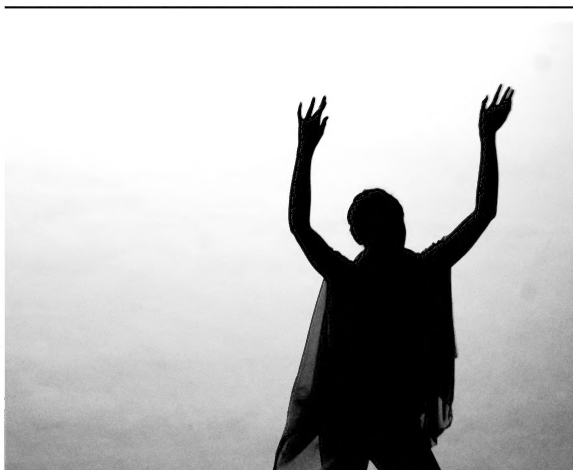
Barr faced some sharp questions over the size of the fee being requested and the actual use of the fees, but the biggest attack on the proposal came from the Vice-President (Operations and Finance) Jason Tobias. He attacked the proposal on the basis that dedicated fees have been one of the fastest growing parts of student fees. Despite concerns, Council approved the proposal for a referendum on the BSA fee, and Business students will vote on the matter during BSA election in the first week of February.

BILLS, BILLS, BILLS

Council then moved onto bills emanating out of some of their committees and undertook debating legislation that aimed at making the SU more responsible and efficient. First, it approved a motion that allows the speaker to represent Council in front of the Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement Board. Then, Council moved into an extensive debate over whom—the Council Administrative Committee or Council itself—should approve strictly confidential contracts entered into by the SU. While the procedure was supposed to settle the question and make the procedure easier, the debate dragged on for the better part of an hour before passing the proposal to have Council approve the contracts.

COUNCIL NOTES

• For the first time this year, Augustana Faculty had a representative in Council.



ASHLEY SCARLETT

STRANGER IN THE NIGHT A dancer from the Orchestre Dance Group finds a shadow during a performance at the Myer Horowitz Theatre yesterday afternoon. Orchestre will present Dance Motif 2006 tomorrow and Saturday nights.

Meet the Jetsons? BC inventor designs world's first flying car

Moller International hopes to bring down \$500 000US price tag for M400 Skycar, aims to have flying cars on the market by 2008

KURT HENRICH
The Martlet

VICTORIA (CUP)—"It's a bird! It's a plane! No, it's ... a SkyCar!"

That's what SkyCar inventor Paul Moller hopes we'll all be saying in the future. The BC-born inventor and head of Moller International has spent his entire life working to realize his dream of developing a flying car to revolutionize public travel.

Inspired by hummingbirds when he was a young man growing up in Trill, BC, Moller has gone through hundreds of millions of dollars, survived repeated bankruptcies and developed numerous new technologies on his quest to change the way we travel.

"It will change the way we live for just about everyone," said Moller from his office in Davis, California. "There are a whole bunch of things that will change. The ability to go anywhere you want isn't something we can do today. This is a way where everyone would have the option."

His company, Moller International, intends to do this through the design and eventual mass production of the M400 SkyCar, one of a series of models the company has been developing since his first days in graduate engineering studies at McGill University.

Using a hybrid technology developed for helicopters and aircrafts, with principles gathered from the British Harrier jump jet, Moller's new vehicle can carry four passengers at a top speed of over 600 kilometres per hour at an altitude of over four kilometres.

While the shape of the car has changed over time, the engine has also significantly evolved.

"Really, the key to the SkyCar is the power of the engine," said Moller. "The engine is continually being improved. It gets better and better by

the year."

Moller's engine is both powerful and safe. Like Indy formula racers, the SkyCar runs on ethanol alcohol, which is produced from biomass.

This type of fuel is roughly equivalent to the price of gasoline at the moment, though Moller is confident that when his invention reaches the level of mass production, the price of ethanol fuel will drop significantly, making it a more economically viable option.

While the fuel may be more affordable, the M400 SkyCar certainly isn't—at least not at the moment. Costing roughly \$500 000US (nearly \$582 000CAD) each, they command a hefty price tag.

"It will change the way we live for just about everyone. There are a whole bunch of things that will change. The ability to go anywhere you want isn't something we can do today. This is a way where everyone would have the option."

PAUL MOLLER, SKYCAR INVENTOR

But once factories begin pumping out SkyCars at a faster rate, the company expects the price tag for a brand new vehicle to drop to that of a "quality automobile," around \$60 000 to \$80 000US (\$70 000 to \$93 000CAD).

Added to the price of the car will, of course, be insurance premiums. At the

moment, Moller International's insurance costs are so high that its prototype can only be flown while tethered to a large crane by a safety cord to protect it from "catastrophic failure."

The inability to test the M400 without the safety tether is only one of the many challenges Moller has faced. The inventor remembers a number of times when his dream was on the cusp of oblivion, and he was on the edge of bankruptcy, with Moller International owing millions, the staff working without pay, and the bank threatening to close the shop's doors.

Moller refers to his company's recoveries in an almost spiritual way. "I've had a number of miracle recoveries," he said emphatically when speaking of the many last-minute opportunities he seized to keep his company afloat. "The biggest triumph has been survival."

Yet while the SkyCar and the company have survived the financial perils, the newest challenge for Moller International is transforming its prototype M400 into a commercially marketable product. Partnerships have been formed with Pratt & Whitney for the production of the engine, though the company is still searching for an aerospace partner to produce the body. It's a search that is increasingly drawing their attention outside of North America.

"The US is not very good at the intermediary stage between invention and execution," said Moller, who added the company has now been forced to examine development offers in both China and India.

Despite these difficulties, Moller is confident that one day very soon SkyCars will revolutionize the way the world travels.

"I think we will be out there with vehicles by 2008," said Moller confidently.

about free speech on campus.

The article in question, "Muhammad: The Con Man and False Prophet," was signed by Victoria resident Lorenzo Bouchard. In 1999, Bouchard became notorious for wearing a billboard at the University of Victoria protesting First Nations land claims.

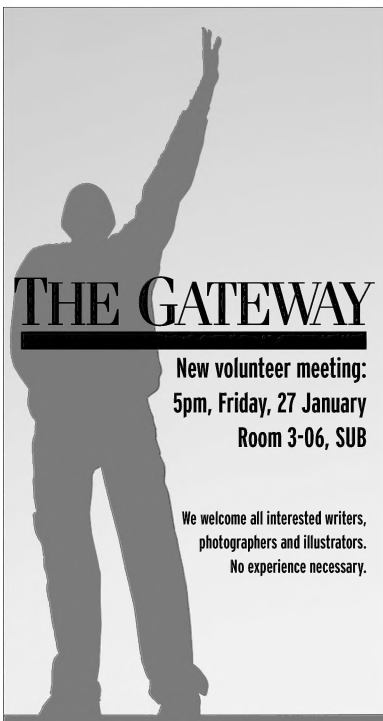
"Rather than posting anonymous literature, an open debate is more conducive to a learning environment," says Camosun Ombudsman Gary Insley. "It's about fairness, providing people the opportunity to reply and ask questions, by creating awareness and critical thinking in an open forum."

Bouchard's article contains information readily available on the Internet, and portrays the Muslim Prophet Muhammad as a thief, murderer, and womanizer.

"The article is taken out of context, historically and socially," says Dr. Mohamed Saleh, a local retired professor of social sciences. "[This article] is ignorant and [the author] is attacking innocent minds. He owes it to himself to better understand what he is trying to say."

Camosun is not the only place where Bouchard's activities have raised concern. In late 2005, sandwich boards with provocative messages such as, "Original traitor for only 100 per cent blood Aboriginals" caused some students to file complaints at the Uvic Office for the Prevention of Discrimination and Harassment.

Nejma Belarbi, Nexu



THE GATEWAY

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NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Compiled by Jake Troughton

UPI PROFESSOR OFFERS HISTORY CREDITS IN EXCHANGE FOR STUDENTS NOT ATTENDING CLASS

CHARLOTTETOWN (CUP)—In the midst of what was dubbed "Academic Integrity Week" by the University of Prince Edward Island's administration, Dr. David Weale came under fire for a unique offer he made to students in his History/Religious Studies 332 class. Weale recently offered a deal to his students: he called "The January Clearance," which essentially offered students a final grade of 70 per cent provided they promise not to attend his class.

While most chose not to accept the offer, approximately 20 students did.

"There won't be a free pass; this university prides itself on teaching excellence. We've won many awards, and this is an aberration," Dean of Arts Richard Kaur said.

CBC reported that Weale made the offer because the class is too big and some students aren't interested in being there.

Dr. Joe Veladim has since replaced Weale as the course professor while

UPI's administration considers what appropriate disciplinary action to take.

Students' Union President Ryan Gallant said news of Weale's offer damages the school's reputation and, as a consequence, the value of students' degrees.

"While I understand to a certain degree what Dr. Weale is trying to say, obviously the integrity of this institution is of utmost importance to us, the students who invest our time and energy here," said Gallant.

But Weale said his offer was designed to benefit all of his students, and that it did so.

"I felt it was in everyone's best interests, certainly," he said. "By eliminating the overcrowding in the room it provided an enhanced learning environment for the approximately 70 students who were really interested in the course, and not just the credit. That surely is worth a few raised eyebrows."

Ray Keating and Sean Mollie, The Cadre

ANTI-ISLAMIC ARTICLE POSTED ON CAMOSUN COLLEGE BULLETIN BOARD STIRS UP CONTROVERSY IN VICTORIA

VICTORIA (CUP)—The content of an anti-Islamic article posted on a bulletin board in the psychology department of the Lansdowne campus of Victoria's Camosun College has shocked some students and staff and raised questions

Electoral reform now the most important issue

THE ELECTION IS FINALLY OVER. Long live the election. Now, after a grueling selection process and a large shift in seats comes the period when most are ready to stop caring about elections and the creation of government. However, there's still a key issue that needs to be addressed. Now is the time to start talking about electoral reform.

Most people who voted don't need to have the reasons for electoral reform explained to them; they most likely went to the ballot box and had a terrible quandary over voting for the party or candidate they wanted, and voting against the party or candidate they disliked the most. The reason for this can be easily seen from a brief overview of some of the stats from election day.

The Conservatives got 36.3 per cent of the popular vote while garnering 124 seats (while they should have had about 114). Similarly skewed results followed the Liberals. The NDP got 17.5 per cent of the popular vote while garnering only 29 seats, not the 59 that number implies. Most drastically, the Greens received 4.5 per cent of the popular vote without getting any seats—far short of the twelve that their share would suggest.

The way our elections are currently held doesn't only misrepresent the way people are voting, but it highly regionalizes the country in a particularly artificial way. For example, in Alberta 100 per cent of the seats went to Conservatives, when nearly half a million Albertan citizens voted for another party.

The sticky thing is, this election was actually one of the better ones for this sort of thing. There have been much greater disparities between which parties are voted for and which get elected. For example, in the 1993 election the PCs got 16 per cent of the popular vote, but were only able to capture two seats in parliament, while the Liberals got 60 per cent of the seat but only 41.2 per cent of the vote.

Now, I can't say that I'm an expert on proposed systems to replace British style first-past-the-post elections, but I can say that it's clear that it needs to be replaced. The continual headache of having to think strategically at the ballot box, only to get your vote spat back like half-cooked meatloaf is getting frustrating.

Stephen Harper may agree with me, since electoral reform has always been an aspect of both the Reform and Conservative parties' platforms. However, I'm afraid that his reforms would be to move towards an elected senate, something that wouldn't fix the disparities in the supposed representation by population House of Commons.

However, if enough people make enough noise about this issue we can sway the government on the issue. Perhaps Harper will remember all the times the current system worked against his party instead of this election where it worked for him.

DANIEL KASZOR
Editor-in-Chief

Politics just another game of chess?

FOR ALMOST 20 YEARS, Garry Kasparov has been known internationally as one of the best chess players in the world, and admired as a public figure in his native country of Russia. But now, the chess master is using his skills in the realm of politics and looking to seize presidency in Russia during the 2008 elections, calling Vladimir Putin a "brutal dictator."

Rumours have been flying that Putin will try to bypass the law that limits a Russian President to two terms in office, but Kasparov is ready and waiting to take his place. So what makes for a good leader, experience in the field of politics or years of silent, strategic mental practice? We'll leave it to the Russians to decide.

CHLOE FIDIO
Deputy News Editor

LETTERS

The gym is what you make it, Termeer

Amanda Termeer, in response to your 12 January article, "Butterdome for Dummies—the gym guide," I work out four times a week, and I praise "high-calorie protein shakes, bars and tuna" so, (minus the hormones) I find myself one step away from being one of the "steroid junkies" that you point toward.

This leads us then to the numerous other simplistic and deluded brushstrokes with which you paint people in the gym: "cardio sluts," "newbies," and even a particularly cheap swine at "Jolly seniors." Wow. You go after those who are already in shape, and even those who are working to get there.

It's really interesting that you criticize the gym atmosphere as judgmental when you yourself so carelessly assign labels to everyone in sight. Of course gyms are breeding grounds for high-maintenance people—this should be of surprise to no one. It's also understandable that gyms can be intimidating, but at least the "newbies" you point toward are overcoming that and making an effort to look and feel better.

Did it ever occur to you that the experience you'd have at the gym is directly related to the attitude you walk into it with? Since the bulk of all communication is non-verbal, maybe people in the gym seemed icy because of how hostile and judgmental you clearly are. When you sulk bitterly in the corner and tabulate everyone in sight, what exactly do you expect?

It's too bad how little your article says about the gym, and how much it says about your own physical and social insecurities. Maybe one day you'll be able to see outside of yourself and even realize that the "gym elite" that you point toward is a concept that's actually completely in your head.

As for the numerous random erections you're forever taking note of that are "harder than [our] abs," I can only speak for my own when I say thanks for noticing, but first, I don't have it because of you, and second, for future reference, it's impolite to stare.

GRAEME TUTTY
Artist III

Hippies shit, too, Storrie

After reading "There's no use crying over spilled shit," in the 17 January Gateway, I'm left to believe there are people out there that think that it's only the animal waste from the meat industry that poses an environmental problem. Of course no one wanted to see the pig waste overflow from the lagoon in North Carolina during a hurricane, but what about countless sewers containing untreated human waste that would have backed up during the same storm? It was a natural disaster unforeseen events happen. Calling meat producers "assholes," and saying they have a "fucky y'all" attitude is the exact type of ignorance and lack of education that is becoming commonplace in urban centres.



After you were finished taking your Econ 101 class and learning about externalities, maybe you should have moved on to a class like Animal Science 200: Principles of Animal Agriculture. In this course, you could learn something about how the products that you refer to as "self-absorbed, weak-conscience and limp-witted glutons," raise, house and care for the animals that are their business and their livelihood, instead of posting ideas that have been brainwashed into the minds of urbanites by propaganda organizations such as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and Animal Liberation Front.

Contrary to your belief about how "shit gets spread around pretty indiscriminately," there are actually numerous industry standards and guidelines that intensive livestock operations must follow. The waste lagoons are storage facilities that ensure there's no runoff under ordinary circumstances (i.e. not hurricanes) into nearby lakes and rivers. Spreading it back onto the fields fertilizes the cropland, thereby recycling the waste. There are numerous provincial and federal bodies that regulate these aspects of agriculture, along with animal health and welfare, and producers must adhere to these standards or face the consequences.

So the next time you are sitting there eating your fat-free, taste-free, organically-enriched tofu steak, consider educating yourself about this industry before running your mouth off on a topic that you know next to nothing about.

DEREK SEAMS
Agriculture III

An apology for Streeters comments

This is an apology for the comment that was made by me the other day in the Gateway ("Streeters," 12 January). I'm not trying to state an opinion saying that I'm against anyone's sexual orientation. I'm just saying that religiously I don't agree with, specifically, "getting married in a church."

I'm completely open and accept you for your sexual orientation. It's the fact of my belief and religion that makes me oppose to marriage in the church specifically. After

the Streeters comments I've lost many people as friends because people just read it and then assume my opinion of them has changed. My comment may have come out completely blunt, ignorant and rude, but I wasn't trying to portray myself this way. I was only trying to put forth my opinion which is my belief and religion.

I'm really deeply sorry to anyone that was offended. Please accept this apology on my behalf.

RACHEL YEUNG
Phys Ed II

UASUS deserves student fees more than the Gateway

On 17 January, I was shocked by Ross Prusakowski's article, "The U of A Science Undergrad Society and Business Students' Assn don't deserve fees."

I take great offence to Mr Prusakowski's view that "UASUS has done essentially nothing for science students." It's arguable that besides providing a twice-weekly newspaper that is filled with witty commentaries about some new trend, the incompetence of Students' Council or a lack of dates on a Friday night, the Gateway has done nothing but provide me with a liner for my then-leagued hamster's cage.

And while Mr Prusakowski continued to describe the *Free Radical* as a "feeble attempt at producing an informative newsletter," I speculate as to what the quality of the Gateway would be if their sole source of funding came from the revenues generated from grad photos and locker rentals in V-wing, which is slated for demolition in the next year.

Further, if Mr Prusakowski believes that a \$2 fee is too much of a financial burden on students, perhaps he would be in favor of abolishing the \$5.46 yearly student fee that is dedicated to the Gateway Student Journalism fund. What I find really interesting is that not only does the Gateway currently collect more than twice as much as UASUS is proposing, but they are currently in the process of trying to increase the fees that part-time undergrad students pay per fall and winter term, as well as introducing a new fee for spring and summer students.

If Mr Prusakowski is indeed concerned about cutting out the fees that get rolled into tuition every year, perhaps we should not only be fighting the implementation of new fees, such as those proposed by UASUS and the BSA, but also pursuing referendum to eliminate our existing dedicated student fees.

By opposing the \$2 faculty fee, science students would be able to save enough money to buy a bottle of Coke. However, if we eliminate the Gateway student fee, all students would be able to save enough money to buy a plate of Wok's in CAB, which would be far more satisfying than any recent issue of the Gateway.

SYLVIA SHAMMANNA
SU Science Counsellor, Science III

UASUS doesn't even deserve to exist, much less student fees

I like to think of myself as a typical science undergrad student, and as such, I was shocked to learn of UASUS' plan to add \$2 to my tuition fee. Well, that's not entirely true. I was shocked to learn that UASUS existed, and I was disgusted to learn they wanted my money. I'm a full-time science student, and not once has UASUS in any way been of benefit to me.

I'd think that an organization such as UASUS would be focused on hosting events and activities to better the awareness of possible careers in science, and providing opportunities for the average student to get involved in their faculty, but all I've ever seen from UASUS are a few posters (and rather ineffective ones at that) advertising a pub crawl. In my opinion, UASUS is a self-serving organization. They aren't concerned with the science undergrad students; they're concerned with the UASUS members. It seems to me that they've formed a tight little clique, and all their events are really just for themselves. I personally don't want to just give them \$2 so they can go on a ski trip or to the movies or whatever it is they do. They in no way make themselves accessible to the science undergrad students or even inform us of what they're doing.

PLEASE SEE LETTERS • PAGE 10

And I, for one, welcome our newly elected Conservative overlords



JAKE
TROUGHTON

Well, this is it: the end of Canada. With the Conservative Party set to take power, everything that makes this country unique and cuddly will soon be dismantled and destroyed, and by the end of the year Canada will simply be the 51st state (also, in this scenario the Americans will insist on eliminating the borders among the provinces for some reason).

Soon, only the rich will receive healthcare. Abortions will only be performed in back alleys by Satanists. Global News anchors will help round up poor gay people to toil in the Tories' underground sugar caves beneath our cities. Canadian cities. Underground sugar caves with slaves. In our cities. In Canada. Or under it, anyway.

I made that up, but listening to some of the more hysterical representatives of Canada's left, you'd think it wasn't so far off the truth. And after Monday's election, only one thing is certain: there's no stopping them. The Conservatives will soon be here. So it's worth asking: are they really so scary?

Well, no. They're certainly wrong on some issues, as are all the parties. But despite the rampant pre-election fear-mongering, life in Canada under Prime Minister Stephen Harper will go on pretty much as before.

"A Harper government would roll back decades of social progress in Canada," according to Maude Barlow of the Council of Canadians. That's a pretty serious charge. It's also pretty nonsensical. Whatever the merits or

"Abortions will only be performed in back alleys by Satanists. Global News anchors will help round up poor gay people to toil in the Tories' underground sugar caves beneath our cities. Canadian cities. Underground sugar caves with slaves. In our cities. In Canada. Or under it, anyway."

faults of the Conservative platform, such hysterics are clearly uncalled for.

One of Barlow's biggest criticisms of Harper, for instance, regards the issue of daycare. Whereas the Liberals and NDP have proposed a national daycare plan to help parents, the Tories have said they would—get ready for it—help parents pay for daycare in a different way. Their way may be better or worse; it's certainly not terrifying.

Then there's the environment, which the Tories are admittedly not strong on. But at worst, their performance will be equal to that of the Liberals, whose talk-a-lot-but-have-one-of-the-worst-environmental-records-in-the-world policy was decidedly unimpressive. This issue is hardly a reason to have voted Liberal in an effort to keep the Tories out, as Barlow had urged.

But surely the prospect of losing abortion rights is reason enough to fear the Tories, right? Well, maybe, if you feel that strongly about it, and if that were actually a prospect. Since Harper explicitly stated that he'd block any bill to ban abortion, though, it doesn't seem like much of a worry. (Besides, at the risk of offending—well, everyone, it seems to me that the idea that a late-term pregnancy isn't a human being deserving legal protection is just as ridiculous as the idea that a fertilized egg is.)

I'll certainly grant that the Tory policy of holding a free vote on same-sex marriage when many of its MPs will be opposed to it is quite stupid

(it's even slightly stupider now than it was at the very recent time that the Liberals had the exact same policy). But at this point, the policy is more worrisome than terrifying.

It could become terrifying in the future—but only if the unfortunately numerous opponents of same-sex marriage (or as I like to call it, "marriage") actually get in a position to get their way. Thankfully, right now they're not, and it's quite unlikely they ever will be. They aren't even close to being able to get a ban through the House of Commons, and even if they did, it would almost certainly be defeated in the Senate. And if it wasn't, there's no reason to believe that the Supreme Court would buck the essentially unanimous trend of lower courts finding such a ban unconstitutional.

Besides which, at heart the position of most Tories is simply to recognize same-sex unions under a different name than marriage. That's wrong-headed and should be opposed at every turn, but it's hardly "turning back decades of social progress."

Throw in the numerous areas where Conservative policy might actually be actively good—cutting taxes, restoring the military to functional status, and instituting new government accountability rules all come to mind—and the incoming government should be a solid improvement over the arrogant, stale, scandal-ridden Liberal reign.

But if I'm wrong, don't blame me: I voted for Kodos.

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There's no need to raise the voting age, young voters aren't that uninformed



JONN
KNECHT

It's Monday night and I just voted. According to some, that makes me a vital part of the system, a member of the "elusive" and "hard to reach" 18- to 20-year-old demographic, "rushing the vote" to make my voice heard in Canada's free and democratic system. It brings a single tear to a pollster's eye. To others, this goes to show how ignorant and immature young voters are. Why? Because I'm a member of the 18- to 20-year-old demographic and I'm incompetent and out of touch with the issues. No other reason is necessary.

Throughout the past few years, there has been a debate to drop the voting age to 16. Now, apparently, there's also a push to raise it. Last week, Maclean's magazine ran an article on new research arguing that Canada should raise the voting age to 21, because 18-year-olds just aren't mature enough to vote anymore. This is justified by the fact that voter turnout over the years since 1970 (when the age was lowered to 18) has been declining rapidly. Plastered with a picture of a not-so-bright looking teenager, the article argues that 18- to 20-year-olds today are politically incompetent, unlike the Baby Boomers of old, so we shouldn't have the right to vote. Instead, we should go back to our lives of jumping from job to job and living off of our parents. Kids today just aren't what they were in 1970.

This is completely condescending and insulting to every hard-working 18- to 20-year-old Canadian

out there, whether they vote or not, and it's a shame that Maclean's decided to reinforce this negative image of our demographic. They make all young people sound like lazy vagrants who feed off society like parasites and contribute nothing meaningful until we get into our late 20s and magically acquire the capacity to feed ourselves.

While young voters are voting at a lower rate today, the article fails to note that, when comparing the 2000 election to the one in 2004, the percentage of 18- to 21-year-olds voting went up, from roughly 25 per cent to an exact 38.7 per cent. Apparently, "a disturbing trend among young people," according to Chief Electoral Officer Jean Pierre Kingsley, without irony, while citing "political inattentiveness" as the major reason.

Throughout the past few years, there has been a debate to drop the voting age to 16. Now, apparently, there's also a push to raise it.

Even if this is true, what sense is there in taking the vote away from the 38.7 per cent who paid attention and took the time to vote? What kind of backward logic is this? Most of those who don't pay attention to politics don't vote anyway, so if this idea came to pass, you'd only be taking the vote away from those who currently do take part. I don't remember groups of ignorant teens going around spoiling ballots and gag voting for fun.

The claim is made by a British political scientist that by raising the age to 21, you'd make the vote more

valuable. By doing this, though, we could alienate those who do currently vote. People who vote now could be turned off of the system, so they don't vote even when they turn 21.

How would this stack up with our social policy? With the new Conservative government in, 14-year-olds will be charged as adults for violent crimes, and the age of consent will be 16. So 16-year-old Canadians have enough judgmental ability to know what they're doing when they kill people and have sex, but those who are 18 don't understand voting? Immates who were 21 could still cast a ballot, but 18-year-olds would be left rattling a cup on the bar. You can join the Army at 18 and die fighting for peace in Afghanistan. Would these soldiers be too immature and incompetent? Would they still be "strong and proud" when their democratic freedom to vote is taken away?

Instead of trying to fix apathy by legislating a new voting age, we should look at the reasons why everyone is voting less. It's not just young people—every age group with the exception of seniors is voting less than they did in 1970. This isn't only in Canada, as several democratic nations have seen a drop in voter turnout in recent decades.

Why is this? This is a huge topic and it's far too broad a question to cover here. But while we have a lower youth turnout than many of these nations, the matter won't be improved by taking away this right from young people.

So, to all you brash, idealistic young voters out there, I say don't vote, because if you do, you're obviously "kids with half-baked brains" voting for the wrong party anyway. It's too bad you don't know any better, and that you don't vote and think according to how those who make policy feel you should.

LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Claiming that instituting this fee will allow them to make science students more aware of their existence doesn't make any sense to me. I was under the impression it was free to stop by classes and announce events, and that it was relatively cheap to print some posters.

Last term I took one class from another faculty as an option and I know more about that faculty's student organization than I did UASUS. These 22 services they claim to provide are news to me, and I've even visited their website. I understand that it takes money to host events and provide services, but what happened to a little old-fashioned fund-

raising? It shouldn't be hard to raise a little money with 31 coordinators and over 70 volunteers involved.

A friend of mine is on that volunteer list and he's only been contacted once to volunteer, and even then he wasn't provided with any instructions on how to help. I mean, let's be honest UASUS, most of you are only involved because it's going to look good on your resumes (and med school applications), so perhaps you should do a little work for that privilege instead of just expecting everyone to hand you money.

RACHELLE STONE
Science III

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building or e-mailed to opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.

All letters should have at least a little bit of thought put into them. How in the name of God did you get in to university?



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Welcome to the United States of North America



SCOTT C.
BOURGEOIS

I think it's time for Canada to get its collective ass in gear and start working towards being a great nation again. For too long we've been the whiner-babies of the world, and it needs to end. We need to start working towards a great and noble ideal. We need to start living up to the image of the United States of America.

That's right, Canada needs—desperately—to transform itself into America. Just think of the prestige! Just think of the respect! And, more importantly, just think of what Americans will finally start thinking of us.

We need politicians who are above reproach, and who are at liberty to lie to us about anything under the sun to justify their own agendas. Who are we to disagree with, or worse, question them? They're our betters, and we can damn well fall in line!

We need a media outlet that provides us with meaningless propaganda 24 hours a day and calls it news! How are we supposed to know what to think unless we have constant spin hitting us directly from those in power?

We need police with broad, sweeping powers that infringe on our human rights. How else can we be expected to remain safe and free? Especially from those terrorist bastards! You know who I'm talking about: they should all be put in secret prisons on foreign soil. Better there than us, right?

We need to get rid of gay rights. I don't see any need to defend myself; we just need to get rid of them. We can send them away with those terrorists for all I care, just make sure they aren't influencing my kids with their gay propaganda and ruining my marriage with their gay civil unions.

That's right, Canada needs—desperately—to transform itself into America.

We need lower standards of education. Who needs a grade-12 education anyway? Or a university or college diploma? People only need junior high to have a meaningful job at Wal-Mart—if that. We can do away with fancy math, advanced language skills and—*word of all—history or geography outside of our own immediate sphere.* This is all unimportant, and we won't miss it.

We need private healthcare. This

crazy public health system is draining the government of money, and raising our taxes! I don't want to pay taxes! The government should make it private so that they can cut taxes. I'm willing to pay three or four times the tax cost for a private doctor—if I ever need one. Which I won't.

We need looser laws on big business. The only way these businesses can stimulate our economy is if we let them do whatever the hell they want. We want to dump toxins into our drinking water to cut your costs. Go for it! We've got doctors to keep us healthy—wait—oh what the hell, do it anyway.

We need the fear and animosity of the rest of the world. They aren't us, so what the hell do we care what they think? We'll do whatever we want, whenever we want. And if the world seems to have a problem with it, they can suck our collective ass. We don't give a shit about them, but they'd better damn well give a shit about us. We're Canada, and they're just everyone else.

And the best part? We've already taken the first steps! We've thrown down the shackles of our spineless Liberal oppressors, and put Republicans—*Conservative—*interests in power. With hard-line right-wing interests in charge, we'll be quickly shaping up and turning into a nation we can all be proud of: the United States of America II.

Three small changes that could improve this university



BRIAN
RAMCHANDRAR

neck with the facial area inexplicably shaved clean.

Unable to come up with any logical reason for why someone would do this to themselves, I have to assume one of two things: the first is that these poor young lads are covering up some sort of horrific scars. Hank Williams Jr. shattered every bone in his face during a mountain-climbing accident, and eventually grew a beard to cover up the scars. He then went on to be ridiculously famous and wealthy. Perhaps this is their ultimate goal as well.

The other is that they're afraid of vampires sucking blood from their jugular veins. If this is true, then I suggest shaving your neck and just carrying around garlic to ward off attacks. Sure you'll stink and the ladies will avoid you, but realistically, the throat-muff you're sporting now won't be getting you hickies anytime soon.

Mouth breathers: Speaking of garlic, as much as I like it in my food, I don't want to smell it coming out of your mouth. Most classes are held in rooms that are already too close for comfort for most people, so having a mouth breather next to you makes things that much worse. If you're stuffed up, I feel for you, but that's no excuse, as modern technology has provided us with Halls and Vicks Inhalers to clear up those pesky sinuses. For the rest, evolution has provided us with nostrils to be used not just so rock stars can do lines of coke off a hooker's ass, but also to function as an alternate pathway for the intake of air. If you're

a mouth-breathing neckbeard, please contact the Biology department as you may be the evolutionary missing link.

One-ply toilet paper: Never having been in the women's bathroom (although I assume it's a wonderful place where the smell of beef jerky permeates the stalls and occasional girl-on-girl action breaks out) I can only speak for the men's rooms on campus. As much as I hate having to do my business in a public stall, sometimes nature calls and you have no choice but to answer. However, this university seems to believe that sandpaper is sufficient for our wiping needs.

I can't speak for others, but I know I've never been to prison. Because of that, my asshole isn't accustomed to a thorough ragging. Therefore, I don't think it's too much to ask to have a little bit of softness to comfort the situation.

Last time I went to the grocery store, I got 24 rolls of quality two-ply for about \$5. If only \$1 extra was added to the tuition of the roughly 30 000 students on campus, that would buy 144 000 rolls. That's a whole lot of high-quality ass wipe. If I wanted to pay hard-earned cash for a low-grade paper, I'd buy the Edmonton Sun.

So there you have it—three changes that will put the eyes, noses and asses of this fine campus at ease. Who would have thought that a policy of honesty could be so simple? Sadly it was nowhere to be found leading up to Monday's election. Future Prime Minister Slick? Dare to dream my friends. Dare to dream.

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Paris Hilton is no feminist leader



PATRICK
ROSS

Recently, in the basement of SUB, I saw something that probably would have made me laugh if it didn't make me want to cry. Hanging on a bulletin board was a poster for a campus feminist club. Embellished on it were the words "Feminism: that's hot," with a picture of Paris Hilton and her now-estranged cohort, Nicole Ritchie.

The fact that I possess a penis notwithstanding, this flew in the face of my understanding of feminism. I understand feminism as a movement meant not only to empower women, but also to explore and pioneer positive new roles for women and men alike.

Paris seems to be a new, if ill-suited, poster girl for feminism. Even feminist band Le Tigre has jumped on board, writing a song for her debut album. What would-be feminist could ask for a better endorsement than that? Perhaps the better question is: what would-be feminist who doesn't have Paris' privileged access to the rich and famous could? Probably not many.

It's more than simply unsettling that Paris Hilton could be considered a feminist icon. It's actually confusing, considering that she justifies her existence in two ways: "My daddy's rich," and, "Look how hot I am." Not that I want to be hostile to hot rich girls, but the idea of a spoiled hotel heiress who doesn't seem to be capable of doing anything with any degree of competence becoming a poster girl for feminism should be offensive to feminists everywhere.

There are a few reasons for this. Foremost is Hilton's role in making eating disorders fashionable for young girls. There's also her political faux-awareness: she fashionably opposes the Canadian seal hunts, yet still wears fur fashions. Her equally fashionable encouragement of youths to vote in

the 2004 US Presidential election was offset by her own failure to even register to vote. There's also her gross overuse of that mindless assault on the English language that is internet slang.

Underscoring all this is the fact that Paris Hilton rose to fame by way of a sex tape—the infamous *One Night in Paris*, which Emma Forrest calls *Girls Gone Wild: Billionaire Heiress Edition*—oh-so-conveniently released close to the debut of her aforementioned "reality" TV show.

It's more than simply unsettling that Paris Hilton could be considered a feminist icon. It's actually confusing, considering that she justifies her existence in two ways: "My daddy's rich," and, "Look how hot I am."

Paris Hilton seems to occupy our collective imaginations for just one reason: to serve as our society's prototypical shallow sex object. Some have pointed to her as a modern-day Madonna, liberating us from our old preconceived notions regarding sex (a claim also made by supporters of Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera, despite the fact that Madonna has already done this, and done it better). But there's a disturbing undertone to Paris' "sexual liberation." She and many of her admirers seem to promote a disturbing view of sexuality: one where love and sex are acts of fashion, not acts of passion. In this, she promotes a distinctly un-feminist worldview in which image is absolutely everything.

Intriguingly, a *Parade* Magazine celebrity poll determined that the same number of people would kick Paris off the Survivor Island as George W. Bush. This is probably not the best of company for a would-be feminist to be in. But then again, I have a penis. Who am I to speculate?

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Hockey Bears seeking redemption against Huskies

ROSS PRISAKOWSKI
Sports Staff

Given the classic clashes on the ice and the domination that both teams have held in CIS hockey over the past few years, it's hard not to let a little bit of hyperbole seep into any description of this weekend's series between the Golden Bears and University of Saskatchewan Huskies. Not only are these the top two teams in Canada West and the University Cup finalists from last year, but between them, the two teams feature the four best goalies and three of the top-five scorers in the conference.

However, while some are touting this series as yet another preview of the University Cup final, the Golden Bears are playing down that aspect of the weekend's games, while admitting that it will be a true indication of just how competitive a team they can be when fully healthy.

"When we were down there [a 6-2 loss and a 3-5 tie on 4 and 5 November, respectively], we didn't play very well. We had lots of injuries and we didn't measure up very well against them," said Bears head coach Eric Thurston. "It's a good test for us this weekend. The adversity we had at the beginning of the year has helped us out. It's paid off well, and we're a much different team than we are from the first half. Saskatchewan's obviously the top team in the country and now we have the opportunity to see how we stack up against them at full strength."

"The first time we were [in Saskatoon] was kind of a wake-up call for us and showed us how much more work we had to do to get where we wanted to be," added goaltender Aaron Sorochan, who's coming off a one-game suspension for verbally abusing an official in last Friday's game against Regina. "Since then, we've been taking baby steps, getting better and we got on a little roll and strung some wins together and we're finally healthy again. The team's coming together."

Aside from serving as an indication of how good Alberta is, the series against Saskatchewan could also have a big impact on who has home-ice advantage all the way through the playoffs.



GLORY DAYS It will be hard for both teams to not think of last March's CIS championship game when the Bears and Huskies face-off this weekend. FILE PHOTO: JEFFREY GREENAUS

Currently ranked third nationally, the Bears sit two points back of the Huskies, who sit atop the CIS rankings. However, Alberta holds a pair of games in hand on their rivals, meaning that they'll still have a chance to ensure all of their postseason contests are played in the friendly confines of Clare Drake arena, even if they split the series.

Since both teams are expected to be the last two standing in the Canada West division this season, thereby procuring berths in the University Cup once again, playing the conference final at home

might not be that big an advantage. Still, though, going out on the road for a playoff series is something the Bears say they could do without—even though they feel they can still come out on top if they have to make a trip.

"[Finishing first] is huge. To be able to have home-ice advantage all the way through the playoffs is nice," said Sorochan. "It's always nice to play at home and avoid having to get on the bus or on a plane and travelling somewhere and having to deal with visiting fans."

"In 1999 and in 2000 we played out of University of Saskatchewan for the playoffs. Both teams were going to nationals and we won the CIS championship both years," added Thurston. "So do you want to win the Canada West, or do you want to win CIS Playoffs and nationals are two completely different seasons."

Things get underway at 7:30pm Friday and Saturday. Friday's game can be heard live on CJSR, while Saturday's game moves up the dial to the TEAM 1260.

Bears and Pandas swimmers head into meet looking for spots in nationals



SHOW TIME Both the Bears and Pandas swimmers are ready for the Canada West swim meet. FILE PHOTO: PHIL HEAD

ROSS PRISAKOWSKI
Sports Staff

While they haven't exactly become world beaters, the Golden Bears and Pandas swimming teams have steadily improved over the course of the last season and have begun to resurface on the CIS swimming scene.

However, while the team is guardedly optimistic that they'll add to the current roster of six swimmers—three men and three women—that have already qualified for nationals, no one is predicting that Alberta will be able to challenge for top spot at this weekend's Canada West meet, hosted by the University of British Columbia.

That's because, barring a major upset, both the UBC Thunderbirds, who have captured eight national titles in a row, and the University of Calgary Dinos are heavily favoured to be sitting atop the standings once again when the meet is over. Still, Bears and Pandas head coach Sam Montgomery thinks that his teams have a chance to improve upon their fourth-place showing from last year and at least push the two giants in CIS swimming.

"I think at this level and this time of year if we swim well, we can challenge them both," said Montgomery. "Given that we're taking a full men's team, I think we'll have some better placings [than last year], because at the Canada West level there are some events that aren't fully subscribed. If we enter with that in mind we can put people into events where they can score simply by completing the race."

The return of a full men's team to Canada West competition is a positive sign for a program that won six conference titles during the

'90s, but has struggled from that point up until now. Add that the Bears and Pandas have had a modicum of success in non-conference meets this season, going 5-2 and 4-3 respectively, and have a handful of swimmers that look like medal threats this weekend, and Montgomery's optimism for the program doesn't seem exaggerated.

"We have several swimmers capable of winning events or placing well at Canada West," he said. "On the Pandas side, Marla Breithreutz is our team captain and she's also one of our top performers. I expect her to do very well in the freestyle and backstroke events."

"For the Bears, we have Charles Turanich-Noyen, who should do very well in the butterfly strokes; Jian-Iok Chang, who excels in the backstroke, and we also have Mike VandenHem, who should do very well in his freestyles. We also have several other swimmers who should do strongly, and I'm hoping that we'll be able to add three to five more men and two or three more women to the team that will be going to nationals."

Along with the Western Canadian championships that run from 15-19 February, this weekend's Canada West meet in Vancouver will be one of the final chances for Montgomery's swimmers to qualify for this year's nationals, which will take place at the Université de Laval at the start of March. However, for a Bears program looking to get back on top of the CIS swimming world, the rest of this season's meets will represent the beginning of the program's renewal, and the first few important steps that will mark the Bears and Pandas' climb from the lower rungs of the ladder into CIS swimming's upper echelon.



FILE PHOTO: WEIYANG LIU

STEPPING UP With five departing players who are key parts of the Bears' dominance, players like Derek Proudfoot (above) will have a bigger role next season.

Volleyball Bears' seniors play final game at Main Gym

Five Golden Bears play their last regular-season home games, get sendoff from head coach Danyluk

ANDREW RIEFRIE
Sports Staff

When the volleyball game was over on Saturday night, and most of the fans had filtered out of the Main Gym, Nicholas Cundy looked over to the score sheet at courtside. Beside his name was an impressive list of statistics from the game: seven kills, one service ace, three digs and ten points in a lopsided Alberta victory over Winnipeg. These numbers are just the tip of the iceberg for Cundy, who has had an impressive CIS volleyball career, which will finish at the end of this season.

"His dynamic athleticism and powerful hitting have made him one of the most exciting players to watch in Golden Bear history," head coach Terry Danyluk said in a ceremony on Sunday that honoured Cundy and four other players who will be leaving the Bears program at the end of this season.

Cundy, Adam Sillery, Brock Davidiuk, Tony Szkultecki, and team captain Leo Carroll are all in their fifth and final year of CIS eligibility. They may not play again in front of a home crowd, unless Alberta hosts the Canada West Championships, so they were all recognized for their achievements on Sunday afternoon.

"They all contribute in different ways, and they're all gentlemen, which is the biggest thing for me," said Danyluk after the ceremony. "Congratulations to those guys, it's been a pleasure coaching them."

According to Danyluk, the best word to describe Szkultecki is "universal." The 6'6" science student has played every position for the Bears with the exception of setter.

"His all-around ability makes him one of the most rounded players ever to play in a Golden Bear volleyball uniform," said Danyluk.

For the second year in a row, the Bears will lose their captain at the end of the season. Carroll, often called "Great Big C" by his teammates, hopes to become a medical doctor eventually, but for now has his sights set on playing volleyball professionally in Europe.

"Carroll is a model student and person," Danyluk said to the crowd at the ceremony. "His reliability and maturity have made him a natural selection by his teammates as their captain."

Sillery will graduate with an education degree this year, and plans to coach volleyball when his teaching career begins.

"[Adam] has become a major contributor to this program as a student athlete," said Danyluk. "He will make a huge impact on the sport as a teacher and as a coach."

Setter Davidiuk, or "Dude" to teammates, will graduate this year with a business degree.

"Brock was instrumental in both the Bears' silver and gold medals in 2004 and 2005 and continues to be one of the country's top university setters," Danyluk mentioned. "[His]

commitment to excellence and his desire to play volleyball will be missed after he's gone."

"There's a history here for me; this is where I fell in love with volleyball. I can't pinpoint it with any words, and I don't know where they came up with the term Golden Bear, but I hope to be one by the end of the season."

NICHOLAS CUNDY
Bears Setter

After the presentation to each of the five graduating players, a short video played, showcasing their talents on the court. It was an excellent send-off to some of the best volleyball players in the country, and the graduating Bears felt that it was a great way to finish their volleyball season at the University.

"[The ceremony] was great," Davidiuk said. "I was surprised Terry held it together, because I thought he was going to cry a little. He said some words that were really meaningful to us, and it's always hard leaving a place

you've made a home."

While Davidiuk values the championships he's had a chance to win, he says that the best thing about playing volleyball for Alberta is the close-knit nature of the team.

"The Bears are a family," he said. "Terry gives so much to the team and so does his wife, and guys really bond. We're like brothers on the team—we fight, we party, and it kind of works like a family that way."

For Cundy, the words Golden Bear are synonymous with athletic success.

"When I hear 'Golden Bear' I think champions. I refer the gold part to gold medals, and not just volleyball, because U of A brings in a lot of championships—I think it's a very successful University."

Davidiuk echoed similar sentiments and says that he has wanted to be a part of the Golden Bear organization for many years.

"Since I was 13, I've wanted to be a Golden Bear, because there's a tradition—a legacy of great players," Davidiuk said. "I remember when I was 16, watching the Can-Am Challenge, and Terry came up to me and said, 'One day you're going to be here, and I didn't believe him. There's a history here for me, this is where I fell in love with volleyball. I can't pinpoint it with any words, and I don't know where they came up with the term Golden Bear, but I hope to be one by the end of the season.'"

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Highlighting those who stay out of the highlights

Gateway sports staff's picks of most underrated professional athletes



GATEWAY
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Sports
Commentary

It's not the outstanding stats that they boast; it's definitely not all of the media attention that they get, either. Maybe it's their face-in-the-crowd looks and blue-collar effort that does it. Whatever their draw may be, there's something endearing about the underrated athlete that pulls sports fans in. Although the definition of an underrated athlete is subjective, the Gateway sports staff has picked athletes who they think for a number of reasons are overlooked and/or underloved in the sports world.

Nick Frost

To be a wide receiver in the NFL these days, it takes a great deal of attention-grabbing to actually get noticed for anything—not that there's anything wrong with that. However, it greatly detracts acknowledgment from other solid players: case in point, Arizona Cardinals' wideout Larry Fitzgerald. First of all, it's one thing to have to establish yourself at a young age in the NFL; but to have to do it on one of the shiniest and most consistently ridiculed teams is a completely different task. Fitzgerald, in only his sophomore year in the league, certainly merited recognition, finishing 2005/06 first in receptions, fourth in receiving yards, second in receiving touchdowns, and earning his first Pro Bowl appearance. Not to mention he's being thrown to by one of the biggest one-year-warders in recent memory, Kurt Warner. Get an actual quarterback throwing to this guy, combine it with the fact that, at 6'3", Fitzgerald has the extra height to make grabs over almost any defensive player, and watch his stock soar in the next few years. Yet, despite this, he never seems to come up in conversation with the rest of the league's great players. Maybe when he scores a touchdown he should bust out some of those b-boy moves.

Ross Prusakowski

There are so many underrated athletes out there that it's impossible to pick just one and not feel like you've left someone out. From anyone on this year's World Series-winning Chicago White Sox squad, to every offensive lineman in any football league since the beginning of time, there are just too many athletes that never get their due. That's why my choice doesn't go to the most underrated athlete, but to the most underrated manager of all-time—the Canadian Football League Commissioner Tom Wright.

Despite the fact that he has less power than Paul Martin does at the moment and is tasked with running a league that's as together as Ron Artest's brain, Wright has managed to drag the CFL into some sunny days. He's overseen a growth in TV revenues to all-time highs, lured new fans and ensured that attendance is up across the league. If that wasn't enough, Wright just managed to push through a new, enforceable salary cap over the discontent of a few powerful clubs.

Not a bad resume for a guy who most fans probably can't name and wouldn't recognize if they bumped into him down at Commonwealth Stadium. Even the owners—who he's made tons of money for—have to be

continually reminded of what he's done for them so they can extend his contract and not send him to the scrap heap. Managing to keep the CFL profitable while your bosses don't know who you are? Now that's truly underrated.

Andrew Renfree

As far as underrated athletes go, offensive linemen top the list. They protect the men in the backfield from the clutches of eager defensive linemen and linebackers, yet they rarely receive any credit for their efforts. Think about it: can you name one offensive lineman from either of the teams playing in the Superbowl this year? Probably not. Everyone talks about Pittsburgh QB Ben Roethlisberger, but never do they mention the guys in front of him doing all the work.

"Managing to keep the CFL profitable while your bosses don't know who you are? Now that's truly underrated."

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI
ON CFL COMMISSIONER
TOM WRIGHT

Because there are far too many offensive linemen to list as underrated athletes, I'll focus on the ice instead of the gridiron. One of the most underrated players in the NHL is Ethan Moreau. In his seventh year with the Oilers, Moreau has amassed eight goals and 15 assists, but it's his physical presence on the ice that makes him a great asset. He hits with force, and his speed on the ice make him ideal for nothing short-handed goals. Unlike many professional athletes, you can see a fire in Moreau when he plays and you'll never see him give up on the puck. Yet for some reason, he seems to be overlooked by people outside of Edmonton. One could argue that he should have made the Olympic roster over a few other players, but I suppose that's the life of an underrated hockey player—always in the shadows.

Trevor Phillips

Conventionally speaking, an underrated player is one who performs consistently at a high standard though never receiving the rewards or benefits that accompany such ability. Currently in the NHL, Manny Fernandez, the goalie for the Minnesota Wild, is one of these players. Fernandez leads the league in both goals against average and save percentage and gives the defensive-minded Wild a chance to win every night. However, giving credit to a Northwestern division goaler would be incredibly out of style for an Edmonton Oilers fan such as myself. Therefore, my favorite underrated player has to be, without a doubt, Fernando Pisaní.

Pisaní can do it all. He's an effective penalty killer, who's logging tons of short-handed minutes on the twelfth-ranked penalty killing team in the league. He can score, averaging just over 20 goals a season and he can be counted on in big situations, as he's tied for second on the Oilers in game-winning goals. Fernandez is a shot blocker, a play maker, a special teams specialist, big goal scorer, a number one hit for Abba in 1976, and definitely the most underrated player on the

Oilers. He's so underrated that head coach Craig MacFavish was prompted to call Pisaní, "The best-kept secret in the NHL." I guess being drafted 195th overall in 1996, 189 spots behind Oilers top pick Boyd Devereaux, can account for the stealth-like talents he possesses. Despite being an amazing left winger, Fernie is a humble, stand-up guy and a role model for any young player on their way up who feels they're unjustly under the radar.

Chris O'Leary

Superstar athletes, true superstar athletes, are often credited for making those around them better. The '80s Oilers could have put the corpse of Duke Keats on a line with the Great One and he would have found a way to get the long-dead defenceman 50 points in a season; Michael Jordan nurtured Scottie Pippen into forming what may have been the NBA's most devastating duo ever during the '90s, while Magic Johnson made his entire team a one during the '80s. What does this have to do with underrated athletes? Well, the Lakers have another bonafide superstar on their roster these days in Kobe Bryant. While Kobe and the 81-point ass whipping he laid on the Raptors on Sunday night has cemented Bryant as one of the game's greatest in some minds, his season—his whole career—has proven him to be the opposite of this.

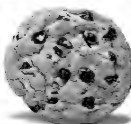
The point of this long-winded and admittedly biased rant is this: the other 14 players that make up the LA Lakers get my vote as the most underrated athletes in sports for two reasons. One, they do an unbelievable job of finding Kobe, as the rest of the team averages 14 assists per game; it's a safe assumption that the majority of these assists go to Bryant, who takes almost 28 shots per game. Second, these guys play on a team with a guy who shoots on average 28 times every night. These aren't just some pansy-ass high-school players who are deferring to a future NBA star, either. They came up through the same system that Kobe did; they were the man in high school, college and on other teams in the NBA. The fact that his teammates haven't gone Tonya Harding on this guy after 41 games together is the most intriguing sub-plot to the Lakers this season. It's probably for the best that the Lakers weren't able to land Ron Artest; Kobe would have been on the injured list within a week of Ron-Ron's arrival.

Mike Laroque

I would have to say that the most underrated athlete would have to be Shaquille O'Neal—but not as a basketball player. No one is worried about this guy under the basket, but what if you're under the influence? That's right, Shaquille O'Neal is easily the world's most underrated athlete/crimefighter.

When was the last time that any of us saw an actual article chronicling Shaq-Fu—a reserve officer in the Miami police force—and his inarguably awesome ability to crush evil-doers? I mean, come on: every day you hear stories of so-called "heroes" "risking their lives" while saving "children," but what I want to read is a blow-by-blow account of a 7'2" giant chasing down a joy-walker. Maybe when he retires from the hardcourt, he can put his size-22s down on the court of law and come out of the shadows of sports and step into his true calling: a freakishly agile 300-lb full-time cop—or better yet, a bounty hunter.

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U of A student competes in Canadian figure skating championships in Ottawa

HANNA NASH
Sports Staff

After earning a seventh-place finish in the qualifying round of the national Canadian figure skating championships at the beginning of the month, U of A student Robyn Bouschard is hoping that her first experience with the country's best skaters will be a springboard to future success on the national stage.

Thanks to her high finish in the qualifying round on 9 January, Bouschard was able to move on to compete in the senior ladies' short program, where a finish in the top-18 would have guaranteed her a position to skate in the ladies' long program. Although she was unable to qualify for the long program, she said her first trip to nationals was a helpful learning experience.

"Going into the short program, I was a lot more nervous, because I had a good skate in the qualifying round and I wanted to follow it up with another good skate," she said. "Next year, I think that I'll be more prepared and I think that, mentally, it'll be much easier as well."

This year's national championships were used to determine which two senior Canadian ladies would go to the Olympic championships in Torino, Italy next month. Joannie Rochette from Montréal and Mira Leung from Vancouver, BC qualified for the Olympics, both of whom Bouschard was watching.

"I think that if Joannie skates well, she could get onto the podium. I hope that she skates well, because I think that it would be really good for ladies' skating in Canada. It's really humbling (to be at nationals), because all of the people who are going to the Olympics that you see on TV are really normal people, once you get to meet them," Bouschard said.

Bouschard's interest in figure skating was sparked when she was six years old, after watching her older sister and cousins become involved in the sport.

"Robyn started skating [at age five] because my mom enrolled both of us in CanSkate," said Crystal Bouschard, Robyn's sister. "She was really little and she wasn't having fun, so she quit. But then she saw me skating so she decided to try it again the next year and she's been going ever since."

"Going into the short program, I was a lot more nervous, because I had a good skate in the qualifying round and I wanted to follow it up with another good skate. Next year, I think that I'll be more prepared and I think that, mentally, it'll be much easier as well."

ROBYN BOUSCHARD
U OF A PHYS ED STUDENT

Bouschard usually spends three hours training on-ice six days a week in addition to taking a fitness class and a yoga class because she finds it calming.

"It's hard to find free time for school," she said. "It's not too bad, except for when I have midterms and finals, because I feel like I don't have enough time to study. But I make it work," she laughed.

The 19-year-old Phys Ed student plans to take a few weeks off from her figure skating regimen and focus on her studies. Bouschard's involvement with figure skating has encouraged her interest in coaching and in completing her bachelor's degree for a Masters program in sports psychology.

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LE MIROIR

Volume I numéro 4 • le journal étudiant francophone officiel de la university of alberta • le jeudi 26 janvier 2006

Mot de l'Éditrice

OMAYRA A. ISSA
Rédactrice en chef

Chers(es) lecteurs et lectrices du *Miroir*,

Il me fait plaisir de vous accueillir ce second semestre et d'espérer que vous êtes tout aussi contents(es) que moi de lire ces quelques articles en Français tous les deux jadis du mois, dans le *Gazette*. Aussi, j'aurais voulu profiter de cette occasion pour plaider pour un Français aux multiples faces en Alberta. J'aurais voulu appeler tous ceux-là qui ont une connaissance quelconque de la langue française, de celui qui peut uniquement dire «bonjour, mon nom est...» à celui qui fait majeure en Français, à vivre pleinement dans cette langue-là. Le Français ne se porterait-il pas à une telle diversification des sentiments ? En tout cas, je le crois bien.

Ceci étant dit, un erreur d'impression dans la dernière publication du *Miroir* nous ayant privé d'une partie d'un article, j'aurais voulu apporter quelques éclaircissements. Dans la parution du 1er décembre 2005, dans son article «Le cas de Stéphane Dion ou le syndrome Wilfried Laurier», Jared Milne avait pour but de démontrer que Stéphane Dion était le symbole même du syndrome Wilfried Laurier. Car voici une figure politique qui dépendamment de l'endroit où il se retrouve est traité différemment : au Québec, il est appelé fédéraliste tandis qu'au Canada anglais, il passe pour un séparatiste. Cet état des choses est à l'image de Wilfried Laurier qui lui même a dû bien souvent faire face à une telle situation. D'où l'indiscutable rapprochement entre Dion et Laurier.

J'offre alors mes plus sincères excuses à l'auteur ainsi qu'aux lecteurs et lectrices du *Miroir*.

Réflexions profanes sur le théâtre

PIERRE-OLIVIER BRODEUR
Le Délis Français (CUP)

J'ai été initié au théâtre assez tard, vers l'âge de quatorze ans. Je me souviens encore de cette première représentation, *L'Avare* de Molière, au Théâtre Denise Pelletier. C'était une sortie organisée par l'école, et je me rappelle surtout de l'ambiance chaotique qui régnait dans la salle, des téléphones cellulaires qui sonnaient. Pour ma part, j'étais bien tranquille dans mon siège, fasciné par le spectacle qui s'offrait à moi. Mais, pour être tout à fait honnête, je dois ajouter que cette fascination devait plus au joint fumé précédemment qu'aux délices d'un vieil homme cherchant son or et administrant de grotesques bastonnades à son serviteur. Pas de coup de foudre, donc, mais plutôt un sentiment d'incompréhension face à la scène.

Pendant le secondaire et le cégep, mon indifférence envers le théâtre s'est confirmée, encouragée par la vétusté des pièces qu'on nous emmenait à voir : rien de plus contemporain que Don Juan ou Lorenzaccio. Ainsi, quand Agnès (ma charmante chef de pupitre, qui va encore pester de me voir me livrer à mes réflexions au lieu de discuter sur un objet plus concret) m'a proposé d'écrire des critiques théâtrales, j'ai hésité. Peu d'intérêt pour la chose, mais surtout peu de compétence. Car le théâtre apparaît souvent aux yeux du profane comme une cabale obscure ne dévoilant ses secrets qu'à ceux seuls initiés. Je ne l'étais pas.

Aujourd'hui, même après plusieurs critiques, je ne me considère toujours pas comme membre de ce cercle restreint, mais j'ai appris à apprécier les particularités du théâtre, en premier lieu la singularité de la représentation. C'est sans doute un lieu commun de dire qu'une pièce de théâtre n'est jamais présentée deux fois, c'est cependant

ce qui en fait, pour moi, le plus grand charme. Nous sommes placés devant cette œuvre d'art éphémère, que nous ne pouvons ni arrêter, ni faire reculer, chaque moment est donc précieux, chaque parole réclame toute l'attention du spectateur, qui participe au spectacle en palliant de son imagination le dénuement des décors. L'oralité du médium théâtral est une autre de ces particularités, surtout dans un monde de plus en plus centré sur l'image instantanée (photographique, cinématographique ou télévisuelle) qui prend le pas sur le signe fuyant qu'est la parole. Et cette parole est importante car la pièce de théâtre est, en règle générale, porteuse de réflexion, critique de la société ou de l'homme. Elle est un des derniers médiums qu'on ne peut concevoir en pur divertissement, en simple passe-temps.

Pendant le secondaire et le cégep, mon indifférence envers le théâtre s'est confirmée, encouragée par la vétusté des pièces qu'on nous emmenait à voir.

Et tout cela est encadré dans un rituel particulier, étrange au profane et d'une désuétude charmante. Entre l'annonceur qui vient nous présenter la pièce et la révérence que nous offrons les comédiens, un silence presque religieux régnait dans la salle ; la moindre toux ressemblait à une éclatante sous une nef sacrée. Et je sors de cette cérémonie comme je sors de la messe annuelle de minuit, charmé par ce monde étrange et hors du temps. Charmé, mais toujours aussi athé.

Le monde en bref

ÉRIC VAILLANT
Actualité

Victimes du froid

Une vague de froid s'abat sur la Russie ainsi que sur de nombreux pays européens.

En Russie, des températures avoisinant les -40 degrés Celsius ont causé la mort de 76 personnes, dont plusieurs sans-abris. Selon Gazprom, le principal fournisseur de gaz naturel, les installations « fonctionnaient au maximum de leurs capacités techniques ». Il reste à souhaiter que la population fasse un bon usage de la vodka qui contribue directement au haut taux de mortalité russe.

En Pologne, on a enregistré d'importantes chutes de neige ainsi que des vents violents. À Ostrowiec, deux individus ont perdu la vie lorsque le toit d'un hangar s'est effondré sous le poids de la neige. Au total, 127 personnes ont, depuis octobre dernier, succombé au froid.

En Ukraine, 11 personnes sont mortes sous ces températures sibériennes ce qui, selon Radio France International (RFI) « porte à 18 le nombre de décès dans ce pays à la suite de la vague de froid ».

Rappelons finalement que si ces pays ont une certaine familiarité avec l'hiver, des températures extrêmes et prolongées sur une longue période mettent à rude épreuve leurs systèmes de chauffage et de distribution d'énergie.

Le défilé irakien

Suite aux récentes élections législatives, aucun parti, ni communautaire, n'a atteint la majorité absolue. La difficulté réside dans l'élaboration d'alliances entre les différents groupes. En effet, pour obtenir la majorité nécessaire à l'élection d'un président, il faudrait réunir 184 voix, ce qui dans l'éventualité d'une alliance entre les chiites majoritaires et les kurdes, ne suffirait toujours pas puisque même réunis, ils ne représenteraient que 181 voix. Les résultats officiels donnent aux kurdes 128 des 275 sièges au Parlement, alors que les kurdes en recueillent 53 et les sunnites 44. Le défilé irakien d'établir des alliances ne se fera pas sans peine compte tenu des divergences entre les partis et les communautés. Entre autre exemple, celui opposant le kurde, Dalal Talabani, qui, selon Tounf Benabichouche (RFI), propose de former un cabinet d'union national, et le chiite Abdelaziz Hakim.

Brabin Rugova s'éteint

Le 21 janvier dernier, s'éteignait le président du Kosovo Ibrahim Rugova. Diagnostiqué d'un cancer du poudron depuis septembre 2005, il avait néanmoins continué de diriger le Kosovo pour lequel il rêvait d'indépendance. Sa disparition, selon Monique Mas (RFI), laisse une vide politique : « il n'a pas de successeur désigné, à la tête de sa ligne démocratique du Kosovo (LDK) ». Rugova, écrivain francophile formé à la Sorbonne, a d'abord enseigné la littérature avant de s'impliquer activement dans la politique.

Abijan : le calme après la tempête

Après quatre jours de manifestations, la capitale ivoirienne est retournée au calme. Les commerces et les écoles ont repris leurs activités régulières et les manifestations qui avaient érigé des barricades autour de la mission de l'ONU ainsi qu'autour des bâtiments français sont repartis. Pendant les manifestations opposant les partisans du président Gbagbo et les Casques Bleus, quatre personnes ont perdu la vie alors qu'une douzaine a été blessée.

Fusion grégorienne: une idée absolument géniale

GUILAUME LAROCHE
Opinion

J'ai une idée absolument géniale, je vais devenir très riche et très, très célèbre. Il faut dire que j'ai travaillé fort pour y arriver, j'ai dû y penser une bonne demi-heure, juste pour raffiner les détails. Je vous lance mon idée juste pour que vous puissiez tous me confirmer que ça va marcher comme je vous l'annonce. Écoutez bien, car ceci marquera le début d'une révolution vers un nouveau genre musical qui éclipsa le rock et le hip-hop au Top 40.

Je vous présente la fusion grégorienne. Les principaux instruments utilisés sont la guitare électrique, une batterie, un orgue de concert. Il y a aussi d'un chanteur. Ça s'appelle fusion grégorienne parce que le chanteur fait ressembler des arrangements de vieux chants grégoriens datant de 1500 ans. C'est cool et ça fait totalement rétro comme en est la mode en ce moment. Ouh, on modernise les paroles un peu pour qu'il soit question du « jour de colère » et non de « dies irae » : ce genre de texte chat populaire chez les ados. Le potentiel artistique de ce genre musical est énorme. Vous pourriez le confirmer quand vous entendrez que ça à la radio commerciale des heures durant – ça là, mes amis, l'indication du succès artistique, de laquelle personne ne peut douter.

En plus, l'ensemble musical est déjà bien développé comme une forme d'expression parce que les

composantes individuelles ont elles-mêmes eu des parcours artistiques remarquables. Il a été amplement prouvé, dans toute manifestation purement artistique, qu'un ensemble ou un tout nous apporte une plus grande satisfaction que les composantes individuelles.

La fusion grégorienne est ici pour de bon, ou du moins jusqu'à temps que mon coloc fasse jouer un autre disque intéressant au même moment que moi.

En plus, en musique comme dans tout art, les instruments et les styles se complètent les uns les autres. Regardons du côté de l'art gastronomique et du bon vieux pâté chinois : du bœuf haché, du maïs cuit et des patates. Ces choses sont toutes très bonnes prises séparément, mais ensemble, elles forment un meilleur repas. La raison pour laquelle le pâté chinois est si bon est que nous avons depuis longtemps maîtrisé la cuisson individuelle du bœuf, du maïs et de la patate. J'ose même suggérer que si nous ajoutions d'autres aliments que nous pouvons cuire depuis longtemps, nous pourrions encore améliorer le goût du pâté chinois. Je suggère le stop d'étable et la mayonnaise ; voilà donc un repas digne d'un

roi. Pareil comme dans ce nouveau pâté chinois, avec mon ensemble, je retiens une base, qui est la guitare et la batterie, et j'y rajoute une perspective individuelle, l'orgue et le choriste. Ce sera tout simplement un succès car je prends une excellente composante musicale du passé, et j'y rajoute quelques autres éléments pour compléter les racines de l'ensemble. Certains, peu clairvoyants, m'ont suggéré que je devrais passer mon temps à innover à la place de recycler des vieilles choses pour les réarranger. Il est évident que ces gens ne comprennent pas ce qu'est l'innovation de nos jours.

Un parfait exemple de ce qu'est l'innovation moderne repose sur les noms d'enfants de plus en plus uniques. Prenons Gwyneth Paltrow et sa belle petite fille, Apple, John, comme nom. non ? C'est original, moderne et unique, et tout ceci parce que Gwyneth réalise tout comme moi que le progrès artistique moderne est dans l'intégration de ce qu'on connaît dans un unique contexte dans différents contextes. Il ne faut pas se gêner de le faire. C'est d'ailleurs la seule façon de propager l'individualité de chacun. En voyant la manière dont chacun représente le passé dans le présent. C'est cela un artiste de calibre exceptionnel (comme moi).

Bon, assez parlé, je dois retourner au marketing de mes futures super-vendues. La fusion grégorienne est ici pour de bon, ou du moins jusqu'à temps que mon coloc fasse jouer un autre disque intéressant au même moment que moi. Je vous offre un conseil : souvenez-vous que pour prof-

LE MIROIR

le jeudi 26 janvier 2006

volume I numéro 4

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Brokeback Mountain, ou le renouveau de la tradition

ROMAIN CHAREYRON
Arts & Spectacles

Tardons le cou aux étiquettes trop faciles: *Brokeback Mountain* est-il un western gay ? Oui et non. Oui car, l'histoire d'amour qui se joue devant nos yeux a pour protagonistes deux hommes, non, car tout le talent d'Ang Lee est de parvenir à transcender cette barrière du sexe ou, plus exactement, de l'orientation sexuelle, afin de nous montrer simplement (même si, ici, rien n'est jamais simple) une histoire d'amour dans ce que cette dernière peut avoir de magique comme de tragique. De l'amour, *Brokeback Mountain* ne retient que l'essence : le choc amoureux et son impact sur ceux qui en sont les « victimes ». C'est ce choc-là, pulsant, incontrôlable, effrayant, auquel on succombe avec délice mais qui nous fait également frémir qui intéresse le cinéaste, qui y pulse toute la richesse de sa réalisation. C'est précisément la manière dont Ang Lee est parvenu à mettre en images l'indicible, ce qui fait toute la beauté du film. Car comment retranscrire ce qui est de l'ordre de l'émotion et du sentiment pur ? Comment dire ce qui ne peut qu'être vécu ? Les mots semblent superflus et incapables de révéler la vraie nature des choses, le personnage d'Ennis, aux silences éloquentes, en est la meilleure expression. Il va donc falloir faire confiance aux images pour prendre le relais.

Parlons des images ! S'il est bien un fil directeur dans le film d'Ang Lee, il réside dans la manière dont il se joue des clichés et exploite certains thèmes où se bousculent les mythes de l'Amérique populaire, mythes qu'il manipule afin de rendre palpable cette tension dramatique qui parcourt le film de bout en bout et de donner corps à la naissance du sentiment amoureux. Tout est effec-

tivement affaire de détournement dans le film: détournement de la symbolique lié au paysage tout d'abord. C'est au sein d'un univers ultra codifié – à savoir, la campagne américaine des cowboys, dans les années 60 – qu'Ang Lee a choisi de dresser sa carte du tendre, se prêtant pour cela à un subtil jeu de déconstruction. Les grands espaces, filmés en Cinémascope, évoquent des peintures tels qu'Albert Bierstadt ou Thomas Moran qui ont célébré dans leurs œuvres la grandeur et la beauté du paysage américain.

Détournement également du mythe du cowboy et, par la même occasion, déconstruction d'une certaine idée de la virilité masculine

Cependant, plutôt que d'exalter la puissance de l'Homme, le paysage sert plus ici d'écrin aux doutes et aux incertitudes des deux protagonistes. À mesure que l'histoire progresse, il se fait également la métaphore de la violence et de la complexité des sentiments que Jake et Ennis éprouvent l'un envers l'autre. Ici, le froid glace jusqu'aux os et la neige, tombée durant la nuit, manque d'ensevelir vivant. Rien n'est prévisible, rien n'est acquis, et la douceur des choses n'est que momentanée.

Détournement également du mythe du cowboy et, par la même occasion, déconstruction d'une certaine idée de la virilité masculine. Jake et Ennis ne craignent pas le labeur, aiment traîner dans les bars noyés de fumée, faire du rodéo, boire jusqu'à l'oubli, de la bière, du whisky...et ils s'aiment.

Dans l'Amérique des années 60, ça ne passe pas, et c'est bien ce heurt aux conventions que l'on retrouve dans l'appropriation de l'image du cowboy qu'effectue le film, puis la lecture qu'il en donne...on croit savoir, mais on ne sait pas. Par-dessus tout, Ang Lee filme des hommes qui pleurent, des hommes blessés par l'amour, des êtres dont l'apparente rudesse cache des abysses de souffrances et de douleurs contenues et, se faisant, nous rappelle combien cela peut être beau et bouleversant, un homme qui pleure. Tout comme les paysages servant à l'intrigue, le film, dans sa représentation des rapports humains, nous invite à aller bien au-delà des apparences, puisque celles-ci s'avèrent souvent être trompeuses et réductrices.

Ce retournement des mythes, cette défamiliarisation progressive qu'effectue le film servent à nous faire emprunter les chemins de traverse, à nous extirper d'un certain confort et, en nous emmenant dans des territoires que l'on croyait conquis et en nous les faisant percevoir d'un oeil neuf, le film nous place dans un état similaire à celui des personnages, où tout est nouveau, frémissant, porteur des plus grands bonheurs comme des plus grandes peines.

L'amour naissant, l'innamoramento italien. L'étincelle dans la graille quotidienne, l'ouverture joyeuse au monde. Le bonheur mêlé d'inquiétude parce qu'on ignore si ce sentiment est partagé. Le moment exquis où tout est encore possible. Un état transitoire qui débouche parfois sur l'Amour », telles sont les mots employés par Francesco Alberoni en exergue de son livre *Le choc amoureux*, et tel est ce qu'Ang Lee a choisi de mettre en images, et, face à ce choc, on ne ressort pas indemne.

Dix (bonnes) raisons d'écrire pour le Miroir

- 10 Parce que c'est "l'fun".
- 9 Parce que la personne que vous trouvez vraiment "cute" va pouvoir voir à quel point votre écriture est sexy.
- 8 Pour remplir cet espace.
- 7 Pour donner au monde quelque-chose d'autre à lire le matin que l'endos d'une boîte de céréale.
- 6 Parce que votre prof de français de 3e année sera vraiment fier de vous.
- 5 Ok, bon, ça c'était pas une bonne raison.
- 4 Parce que c'est votre rêve d'écrire pour un journal.
- 3 Parce que vous n'avez pas de vie et que vous n'avez rien d'autre à faire le vendredi ou samedi soir.
- 2 Parce que les éditeurs vont "vraiment" vous aimer.
- 1 Parce que cette liste est vraiment, mais alors là vraiment pas drôle.

(pour soumettre vos articles, écrivez-nous à miroiruofa@gmail.com)



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11 am – 2 pm,
5 pm – 8 pm

6107 – 104 St.

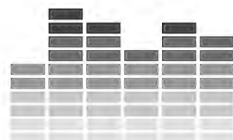
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We're closing the doors on the old Standard after this weekend and re-creating the new Standard in Nightlife. To stay fresh, we're having some work done... re-defining our leadership position in the city. Team members' expectations are high, but so are the rewards. The New Standard in Nightlife will be The New Standard in Nightclub Staff.

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HIGHEST ASPIRATION OF THE COMMON

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more than words:

REALIZING HUMAN RIGHTS

speakers | workshops | displays | performing and visual arts

THE GATEWAY



APIRG



UNIVERSITY OF
ALBERTA
INTERNATIONAL

Coordinated by the Global Education Program



January 30 – February 3

INTERNATIONAL WEEK 2006

more than words: REALIZING HUMAN RIGHTS



I-WEEK KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

Stephen Lewis
Human Rights Gone Wrong:
A Pattern of World Indifference

Monday, January 30

12:00 – 1:30 pm, Myer Horowitz Theatre, Students' Union Building (SUB)

EVENING KEYNOTES:

Engineering Teaching and Learning Complex 1-003 (1-001 on Thursday) @ 7:30 – 9:30 pm

Monday 30: january


Trafficking in Women & Girls:
Today's Slavery, a Shame for a Civilized Society!
Margareta Winberg,
Sweden's Ambassador to Brazil
Prostitution:
An Economic Opportunity
for Women or Violence
Against Women?
Dr. Sitoshi Ikeda,
Department of Sociology

Wednesday 1: february

Canada's Disaster
Assistance Response
Team in
Pakistan
and
Sri Lanka
Lieutenant-Colonel
Mike Voith,
Department of National
Defence

Tuesday 31: january

FORUM: Extractive Industries
and Human Rights - Panel 3

Business
in Zones
of Conflict:
Corporate Social
Responsibility
Neil Chrimmes,
British High Commission
Jeffery Flood, Nexen Inc.
Ginger Gibson, Trudeau Scholar
Dr. Jean-Louis Roy,
Rights & Democracy
Moderated by Dr. David
Deephouse, School of BusinessThursday 2:
february
Edmonton as a
Human Rights
City
Lewis Cardinal, Sangeet
Dhalival, Dr. Andy Knight, and
Dr. Walther LichemSponsored by the
University of Alberta Senate
www.international.ualberta.ca/iweek

January 30 – February 3

INTERNATIONAL WEEK 2006

more than words: REALIZING HUMAN RIGHTS

opening
EVENTS

Friday, January 27 @ 12:00 – 1:30 pm
SUB Stage, Students' Union Building

Procession: Lighting the Way
for Human Rights starts at 11:30 am from
the International Centre to SUB Stage.

Capoeira

martial art combining music and
dance from the period
when slavery was
prevalent in Brazil.

**3rd Street Beat**

presents DETAILS,
all girl hip-hop crew with
a show that is fresh, hype
and explosive!

**Sweat-Free
Fashion Show**

Check out the fashions to
think globally and wear locally!

**Bollywood
Comes Alive!**

Let India warm up your winter days
with the explosive beats and blood-
pumping passion that makes us
all want to be movie stars!

**universal
DECLARATION
of HUMAN
RIGHTS**

The General Assembly of the United Nations
adopted the Universal Declaration of Human
Rights on Dec. 10, 1948.

The 30 Articles of the Declaration can be
found at www.un.org/Overview/rights.html

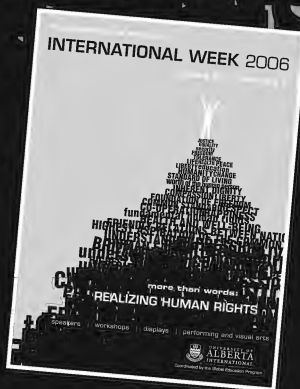
**An Af-Fair of Human
Rights Organizations**

10:00 – 4:00 pm,
Tory Business Atrium

Features various organizations
that work locally and internationally
towards 'realizing human rights',
and provides information on how
you can get involved.

**February
2nd and 3rd!!!**

Program guides located at the International
Centre, across campus and at
www.international.ualberta.ca/iweek



See program guide for more details!

CBC  presents

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Igniting the Human Spirit

Friday, February 3 @ 7:30 pm, Myer Horowitz Theatre SUB

Tickets in advance \$10 At the door \$12

Tickets can be purchased at SUB Info/Ticket Centre or the International Centre


UNIVERSITY OF
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INTERNATIONAL

*Lighting
our Way*



Firefly Theatre

UP AND COMING with Firefly
Theatre's Aerial Ensemble

*Dominic Lacroix &
Delphine Romaire*

Alaska Dances



Bollywood Comes Alive

Radiovacana



Asani



www.international.ualberta.ca/iweek

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Fully Committed

Directed by James Defelice
Starring John Kirkpatrick
24 January–12 February at 8pm
Citadel Theatre

After a long week of classes, nothing feels better than a good, hearty laugh. Comedy can cure the most intense feelings of trepidation, so change things up a bit this weekend and check out the Citadel's production of *Fully Committed*.

The play follows a Sam Policzowski, an everyday guy who works the reservation line for a classy Manhattan restaurant. While Sam's daily work routine consists of chatting it up with elite public figures and annoying celebrities, he's also trying to gain insight towards his personal goals.

John Kirkpatrick, an actor best known for his roles in *Measure For Measure* and *Stones In His Pockets*, dons the role of Sam as well as a robust number of other characters, and judging from his past performance, this one-man play is sure to provide audiences with a cornucopia of chuckles.



Stephen Franke and The Noises from the Toolshed

with Slowcoaster and Smorgasboard
Friday, 27 January at 8pm
The Powerplant

Normally, noises coming from the tool shed mean some squirrels have found themselves a nice, comfy home. However, Stephen Franke and The Noises from the Toolshed are unlike any annoying chipmunk rattling.

Combining upbeat Latin, Cuban, and groove-jazz elements, Stephen Franke's irresistible sound is still radiating across the country even though his last album, *Songs For A Platinum Blonde Diner Waitress*, was released in 2004. But with a show happening at the Powerplant and a new album set to be released sometime this year, Franke is sure to keep the masses better fed than those pesky rodents living in your backyard.

Sisters, Such Devoted Sisters

Written and Performed by Russell Barr
25 January–29 January at 8pm
Catalyst Theatre

We've all seen our basic Shakespeare and Williams plays, but how many of us can say we've seen a production of something extraordinarily unique?

The Catalyst Theatre, in conjunction with Out Of Joint Productions, is staging Russell Barr's *Sisters, Such Devoted Sisters*, a play surrounding the life of Glaswegian drag queen Bernice Hindley. Dubbed by the author as "confessional theatre," *Sisters* is a one-man show in which the character of Bernice directly addresses audiences and speaks to them about transvestite populations, exploding grandparents, and Jack Russell Terriers driving automobiles.

The play sounds as though it will be rich in entertainment, and undoubtedly though provoking, so make sure you pop by the Catalyst theatre this weekend to catch one of the performances.

AMANDA ASH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Sylvie rages against machines ... or something

Sylvie

with *Ghosts of Modern Man*
Friday, 27 January at 8pm
Sidetrack Café

JESSICA WARREN
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Confusion is a bit of a mixed blessing for an artist. It can act as much-prized inspiration for the creation of something new, but can also leave a musician speechless in an interview with local media. Riva Farrell Racette, bassist for Regina's Sylvie, discovered the truth of this latter scenario when the topic of her band's latest CD, *An Electric Trace*, was raised.

"It's about our increasing dependency on technology and how it pretty much, um—well this is really Sylvie's [Racette's husband and the band's main vocalist] thing—but it's about how technology, how it shatters the mystery of ... anything that could have ... sort of, possibly been mysterious?" laughs Racette.

This relevance is understandable, given the hectic work schedule she and bandmates Jeff Passmore (vocals, guitar), Chris Notenboom (guitar), and Jeff Romanyk (drums) have been subjected to over the last couple of years. After being signed to Smallman Records, Sylvie has found itself on the road both independently and with such glowing partners as Hot Hot Heat and Death From Above 1979. The band is about to begin a new cross-Canada tour this Thursday, which means a lot of driving as they head out of their hometown.

"Geographically speaking, Regina is 'central,' but in terms of the industry it's not exactly centrally located. It's a pretty quiet city, but it definitely has its pluses just given that it's so cheap to live here. Financially, having Regina as a home base works for us."

This type of fiscal compromise is what's keeping Sylvie steadily on the road and in the record-



ing studio. While their debut album *I Wish I Was Driving*—nominated for a 2003 Western Canadian Music Award—was recorded over only five days, *An Electric Trace* had a longer time to evolve, giving the band two stints in the studio and the opportunity to write songs on the spot, something new and exciting for everyone involved. It's the kind of payback the band members are looking for as they constantly try to juggle their work with the increasing demands put on Sylvie as the group becomes more recognizable.

"Chris just had to quit his job because we went on tour again. Joel works at an acrylics place making things out of plastic, like brochure holders, and plastic bins too. Jeff is a drum teacher and does some retail, and I'm a substitute teacher,

which works out perfectly. Every time we go on tour, Jeff has to make it sound like the whole thing is sort of out of his hands so that his boss doesn't fire him."

With a new label, a new CD, and trigger-happy bosses to worry about, Sylvie shouldn't be short of inspiration in the near future. However, they can always muse on the irony in their latest album. Did Racette see anything odd about relying on electronic instruments and CD technology to spread her band's message concerning a lack of "mystery" in the world?

"Wow, um, I don't think so," Racette laughs. "In fact we delved even further into that this time; we used effects pedals and stuff. That is ironic, certainly. I'll have to give that some thought."

Department store comedy a Perfect movie

El Crimen Perfecto

Directed by Alex de la Iglesia
Starring Guillermo Toledo, Mónica Cervera, Luis Varela and Enrique Villén
27–30 January at 9pm
Metro Cinema

EDMON ROTEA
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Like many dark comedies, *El Crimen Perfecto* (The Perfect Crime in English) involves a lot of black humour in the beginning, but the film slowly morphs into a serious thriller rich with twists and a surprise ending.

Alex de la Iglesia's Spanish comedy tells the story of Rafael (Guillermo Toledo), an upscale department store salesman who enjoys living an a "perfect" life which includes expensive three-piece suits, fast cars and fine wine. All the sales ladies fall prey to Rafael's charm and handsome looks as he wines and dines them, running around in fancy clothes borrowed from the clothing racks and making passionate love on the showroom bedroom suites.

However, living the perfect life can cause a lot of problems, especially when Rafael eyes the prestigious position of floor manager for the department store. Not only must he generate the most retail sales, but Rafael must contend with his hated rival Don Antonio (Luis Varela), a men's wear salesman who always manages to outsell Rafael. Unfortunately, Rafael loses the competition and is reduced to mere tasks—such as dressing up the store's mannequins.

Things take charge for the better—or worse—when Rafael gets into a heated fight with Antonio that leads to the fatal impalement of Antonio on a dressing room hook. To add to his difficulties, Lourdes (Mónica Cervera)—an unattractive coworker who Rafael has yet to romance—is witness to the crime and the blatant attempt to dispose



of the floor manager's body. Lourdes blackmails Rafael, making the department store Don Juan her own personal sex slave. What follows is a film filled with humour, hilarious moments, and even a heinous marriage.

But the real charm of *El Crimen Perfecto* lies in the film's setting, the colourful "Yeo Yeo" department store, which reminds audiences of the good old days when malls and "big box" stores never existed and the downtown department store still reigned as the king of retail. Whether it's checking out fur coats in the ladies-wear section, having a cappuccino in the cafeteria or rummaging through the basement, viewers, like Rafael, feel well at ease perusing—and fooling around—in the aisles and showcases of the Yeo Yeo department store.

Rafael, a chauvinist character who possesses the romantic qualities of a stereotypical Spanish soap-opera heartthrob, seduces male and female viewers with his sleazy charm and unintentional

humour. With his pickup lines and skewed view of life, the audience is slowly sucked in by Rafael's charm just as if he was serenading another one of his female co-workers. Through personal asides to the audience filled with philosophical statements (thanks to the screenplay of the film's director, who also has a degree in philosophy), viewers will be entranced by Rafael's charm as if he were serenading another of his female coworkers, all while entertained by his pickup lines and skewed view on life and love.

El Crimen Perfecto also has the plot of a sophisticated suspense thriller as the audience witnesses Rafael attempt to execute the perfect crime, one that will hopefully leave no trace of any foul play or wrongdoing. While it won't be said here if Rafael succeeds, the film has a surprise ending that is sure to satisfy filmgoers who have long desired a movie that's a unique combination of comedy, drama, and thrilling suspense.

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Slurpees, music and Red Shag Carpet

Red Shag Carpet CD release

with The Crows
Saturday, 28 January at 8pm
Powerplant

AMANDA ASH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Some bands break up. Some bands make up. And sometimes, bands like Red Shag Carpet simply ignore the stereotypical drama in favour of better things, like gorging on 7-Eleven delicacies and mocking people they've met while on tour.

According to Red Shag Carpet vocalist and guitarist Ted Ani, trivial arguments and petty fighting is something the Edmonton-based musicians have never really experienced. The quartet has been a closely knit group ever since high school, and over the years each of the bandmates have become used to receiving criticism from one another. However, in order to guarantee the peace is kept during album-recording times, the guys have devised a seemingly foolproof plan that literally involves road testing all of their tunes.

"With four writers, there's a lot of different music coming out of us," Ani explains. "Fortunately, we had the opportunity over the past two years to tour really heavily all over Canada with our stuff. What we did is we all wrote a bunch of songs, played them for about a hundred shows, and then saw [from the audiences' reaction] which were the good ones and which were the bad. In the end, we had about 25 songs that were ready to be cut on the record, and we managed to trim them down to ten, just to make sure we had our best stuff out there."

Red Shag Carpet's latest album, *Lift and Drop*, is indeed the product of their tireless stress-testing, and Ani and his alt-rock band members—Allan Pickard (drums, vocals), Daniel

Yarman (bass, vocals), and Matti Darrah (piano, vocals)—couldn't be happier. However, Ani is still a bit worried about the future, mostly since he just quit his job in order to pursue his music career with the band.

"Our worst habit, honestly, is after a show, we get super hungry and go to 7-Eleven to just chow down on burgers and Slurpees. It's pretty bad. We'll eat, like, five of everything, and then the next day, we feel really sick."

TED ANI
RED SHAG CARPET

"It's kind of scary quitting your job at first," Ani says. "I was a teacher last year for a while, and it was scary to jump into [the music industry] just like that because now you always have to be booking yourself [to play] and you're constantly promoting yourself. It's a lot of work, but it's definitely worth it."

While the rockers are, undoubtedly, hard working and devoted to getting their record out to the public, they're also hiding an underlying habit typical of rock excess: late-night junk-food cravings. The guys' bad habits aren't a sign of weakness, as we might be led to presume, but rather are an indication of just how close the group really is.

"Our worst habit, honestly, is after a show, we get super hungry and go to 7-Eleven to just chow down on

burgers and Slurpees. It's pretty bad," laughs Ani. "We'll eat, like, five of everything, and then the next day, we feel really sick."

"Personally, I'm a big fan of the Sprite or 7-Up Slurpees," Ani elaborates. "Matt is into Coke, Al likes a big drink mix and Dan likes grape. That's another thing: after a while, you also start to learn every single thing about each band member."

Although the band enjoys delving into the wonderland of condiment-smothered hotdogs and searching for actual pieces of red shag carpet—which, according to Ani, is nearly impossible to find nowadays—in their spare time, actually touring on a record isn't always fun and games. Travelling across Canada, like they're set to do come February, can come with its drawbacks, and in order to make the flat tires and overheated engines a little less depressing, they typically turn towards mocking the poor fools they encounter along the way.

"We joke around all the time. We'll talk in accents for an hour, but we're terrible at them. It makes it all the funnier when we think about how stupid we're being," Ani reminisces. "Or, we'll talk about people we've met on the road and pretend we're them. It could be the guy at 7-Eleven, the sound guy that night, or even just some fan. We're not really making fun of them, but you know, it's just kind of fun—this probably doesn't make sense to outside ears!"

Eating, drinking, and poking fun—it would appear that the Red Shag Carpet bandmates certainly know how to bond, even during the worst of times. However, if you do decide to attend one of their energy-packed shows to check out their jester-like antics, just make sure you don't do anything stupid—that is, unless you want to be the next joke when the tour bus breaks down.



Matador's hit-man story worth a shot

Brosnan eases out of *Bond* role as a seedy, depressed assassin in *The Matador*

The Matador

Directed by Richard Shepard
Starring Pierce Brosnan, Greg Kinnear
and Hope Davis
Now Playing

SHAUN CULLEN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

With his tuxedo replaced by a gold chain and a collared shirt with way too few buttons done up, suave becomes sleaze in *The Matador*, a movie that doesn't remove Pierce Brosnan's James Bond typecast as much as it pillages and rapes it. Brosnan doesn't miss this opportunity to display his considerable acting ability as a lonely and pathetic middle-aged hit man, but despite Brosnan's performance the movie never quite finds a groove, and ends up straddling a line between dark comedy and thriller in an entertaining, yet shallow, way.

Early on we find Danny Wright (Greg Kinnear) on a business trip to Mexico where he happens to meet up with the affable Julian Noble (Pierce Brosnan) at the hotel bar. Entranced by his work as a hit man, Julian is so absorbed and single-minded that he has become totally despondent, even forgetting his own birthday while on assignment. Lonely and depressed, Danny becomes Julian's only friend. Together they go to a bullfight where, much to Danny's fascination, Julian reveals his true occupation. After Julian asks for help on a hit, a disgusted Danny abruptly parts ways

until six months later, when Julian finds his way to Danny's home in Denver. Hilariously, Danny had idolized Julian, growing a mustache to match the assassin and framing the ticket from the bullfight. During their time apart, Julian managed to get a hit put out on himself after making some sloppy mistakes and now once again needs Danny's help, with this time showing us just what kind of person and hit man Julian really is.

The Matador is a cleverly dark comedy with enough bravado and depravity to balance out the absurdity. Such elements work together to form an enjoyable movie, which, with only a slight misstep, could have become much, much worse.

Taken as a whole, *The Matador* is an impressive film with melodramatic visuals and a dynamic between Kinnear and Brosnan that directors dream of. The movie has a flair and darkness to it that somehow work well together, and the tone is matched

perfectly by the visuals, right down to the massive and colourful location overlays that cover nearly the entire screen. The dialogue, especially when spewed from Brosnan's Irish tongue, is what makes the Julian character so compelling. Richard Shepard's ability to take a sleazy, drunken, and emotionless prick that is Julian and still make him sympathetic is a feat.

The trouble with this movie is that it doesn't know what to do with itself. It takes twists that make it seem like a thriller, but then suddenly shifts to become a dark comedy. It succeeds at being both types of film, but the sudden switching leaves it feeling disjointed and at times unconnected, which doesn't bode well for the final product. As well, the slight absurdity of *The Matador* on the whole takes away some credibility from the movie, even if it does add to the charm.

Riding on Brosnan's performance, *The Matador* manages to remain a highly entertaining experience throughout. The film doesn't take itself all too seriously, which allows the audience to ignore the few faults and have a lot of fun watching. But be warned: serious and profound it is not. *The Matador* is a cleverly dark comedy with enough bravado and depravity to balance out the absurdity. Such elements work together to form an enjoyable movie, which, with only a slight misstep, could have become much, much worse.

Most fans know Dallas Green as the non-violent, screaming singer/guitarist for Alexisonfire. If you've ever wondered who the brains behind the whole operation is, here's your answer. Green makes his solo debut with *Sometimes*, the first full-length release from his acoustic solo group City and Colour.

Sometimes features Green at his most calm and relaxed. The eleven tracks are a mix of folk and alt-country tunes, all anchored by Green's soaring voice and personal, obviously heartfelt lyrics. Lacking a studio feel, the album sounds like it was written on tour, but in a good way. As Green's expressions of loneliness

perfectly compliment the sparse, simple arrangements, the stresses of a life on the road are conveyed powerfully. "Comin' Home," the album's best track, captures the loneliness and homesickness experienced by musicians in the seemingly eternal world of taking their show on the road.

With the album's first single, "Save your Scissors," as well as Green's vocals on a track by Neverending White Lights being heard more and more frequently on Edmonton radio, Green's star in the music world is rising rapidly. *Sometimes* showcases another young Canadian artist only beginning to make his mark on the music world.

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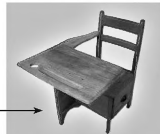
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Book on weed deserves a stoning

Bud Inc is loosely researched and just sort of, uh, sort of, you know, it's uh, bad

Bud Inc

Written by Ian Mulgrew
Random House
On sale now

TIM PIPPIN
Opinion Editor

I'll level with you: I had every intention of liking this *Bud Inc*. I'm interested in the politics and economics of the Canadian marijuana industry, and knew that I was holding a book friendly to my own views before I even started. So it took me a bit by surprise when a vague feeling of unease settled on me after only 20 pages. I realized that I was coming to the end of the first chapter—which dealt largely with the economics of prohibition in general and marijuana in particular—and that Stephen Easton, a scholar at the Fraser Institute, appeared to be the only expert consulted.

This problem wasn't limited to the first chapter—the entire book was relatively poorly researched. I've been told by someone wiser than myself that one of the most accurate measures of a book's quality is the size and depth of its bibliography. The books and papers referenced in *Bud Inc* didn't fill a single page.

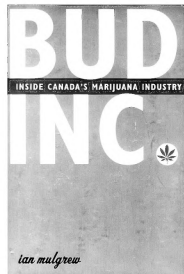
In a sense, this book delivers exactly what it promises—a look inside Canada's marijuana industry. Chapter after chapter is built on interviews with large players in the Canadian marijuana industry—activists, growers, breeders, distributors and users. At the end of the book, I did feel as though Mulgrew had

shown things inside the industry that one might not otherwise have known or seen. But this emphasis on a tame look inside was also the most serious fault found within *Bud Inc*. Ian Mulgrew clearly had a firm message that he wanted to convey, but he appeared to lack the conviction or the time to do the difficult groundwork. Instead of integrating his interviews and research into a larger framework of his own points and message, Mulgrew instead seemed satisfied to let the people he met and the events he witnessed stand for themselves, leaving the reader to draw whatever conclusions they chose, if indeed they felt that any could be drawn.

Long stretches of rambling dialogue and meaningless events filled the book, diluting its message and bloating its pages. Much of it felt like a detailed journal entry, not a probing and concise examination of an illicit world. I can't help but suspect that the decision to make a book looking inside the industry, instead of one looking at the industry, was a decision born of laziness or time constraints, not strategic choice.

For a book that begins by decrying prohibition to then devote whole chapters to nothing more than the challenges and interpersonal confrontations of seed growers and nutrient suppliers seems at best misguided, and at worst cowardly. Many sections felt as though Mulgrew had written them simply because he had the material—he had taken the time and spent the money to do interviews, and by God he was going to use them.

In addition to the problems with



the book's content and structure, the quality of the writing was also disappointing. Many phrases, particularly in the first several chapters, felt defensive or pretentious, word choice was often inflated or inaccurate and much of the book felt as though it could have used the attentions of a more rigorous and attentive editor.

Knowing what I do now, if this book hadn't been given to me for free, I wouldn't have bought it. If I hadn't been interested in pot, I wouldn't have been intrigued. And if I hadn't already been in agreement with Mulgrew's stance, I wouldn't have been swayed. *Bud Inc* is a weak book, hardly worth the time it takes to read it, much less the \$35 asking price. Its most redeeming feature is the thick paper on which it was printed—it makes great filters.

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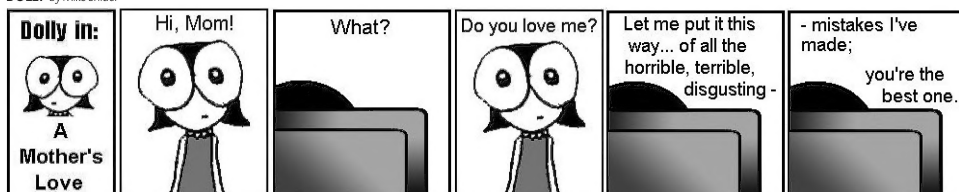
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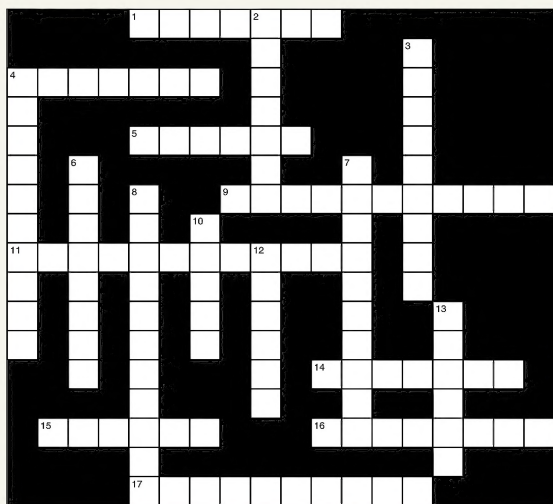


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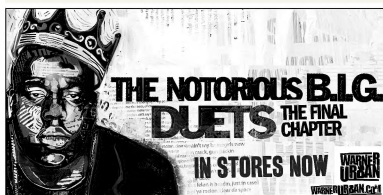
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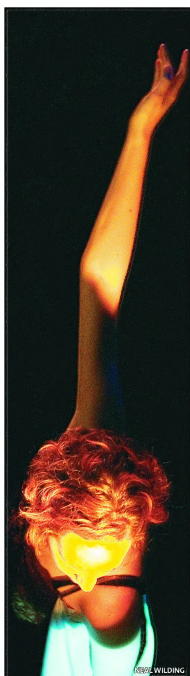
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